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Pickering, John

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President of the Board of Trustees of the University of Michigan

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CAMBRIDGE

WETCALF AND COMPANY,

PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1847.

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EULOGY

ON

JOHN PICKERING, LL. D.,

PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES.

DELIVERED BEFORE THE ACADEMY,

OCTOBER 28, 1846,

By DANIEL APPLETON WHITE,

FELLOW OF THE ACADEMY.

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E U L O G Y .

MR. PRESIDENT, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, —

AMONG all the works of God, I know of no object of contemplation more delightful than a beautiful human character, pure and lovely, ennobled by Christian virtues, and adorned by the accomplishments of mind. Such was eminently the character of our late beloved associate and President, JOHN PICKERING, whose death we have been called to deplore, and whose distinguished worth we have come together to contemplate and honor. The reluctance which, as some of you know, I felt at becoming your organ on this affecting occasion, arose from my conscious inability to do justice to his profound erudition ; but the charm of his character overcame my reluctance, and if I can succeed in drawing a faithful portrait of his life and virtues, I shall rely on your goodness to pardon the imperfect sketch I may give of his talents and learning.

That noble-hearted man, the late Judge Lowell, in commencing his eulogy on the first President of the

American Academy, recognizes the obligation "to trace the path of the great, the virtuous, and the wise, through all their exertions for the benefit of mankind, and to portray their characters as an example to the world." This, doubtless, is the highest purpose of eulogy, and most worthy both of the living and the dead. The memory of great and good men is most truly honored by that which, at the same time, most benefits the world, — the study and practice of their virtues.

You will allow me, therefore, Gentlemen, in seeking to pay this true honor to the memory of one who so richly deserved it, whose life was so invariably virtuous, and who rendered himself so eminently wise and useful, to give especial attention to those virtues and exalted principles which enabled him to achieve his unsullied fame, and which may enable others, stimulated by his example, to pursue a like honorable career. Such a manner of proceeding on this occasion well accords with the high ultimate design of the American Academy; — "to cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest, honor, dignity, and happiness of a free and independent people." Of all arts conducing to this great end, the most important, certainly, is the art of human improvement, and the most excellent of sciences is the science of a good life. And both are best studied from original models of excellence. Biography, still more than history, is philosophy teaching by example

the lessons of wisdom ; but, to fulfil its office, it must teach in the spirit of philosophy, and unfold the means and inculcate the principles upon which progress in excellence essentially depends. The life which is now presented for our contemplation, if exhibited with that truth and simplicity which were so remarkably its ornaments, would beautifully illustrate the lessons of wisdom, and make her ways as clear to the studious mind, as they are pleasant to the upright in heart. We care little for the mere possession of talents or genius ; real merit is above them both. And where shall we look for one who in the meritorious use of talents is greater than our departed friend ? Such a life as his cannot be traced too minutely, from its dawn to its close. Genius and eloquence have already, on various occasions, bestowed a rich and glowing eulogy on the learned jurist, the man of science, of letters, and of worth, leaving us, in echoing the voice of praise, little more to do than to enforce its justness, and to gather what instruction we may from the virtues which have called it forth.* The simple truth, Gentlemen, bestows the highest eulogy on our lamented President, while it affords us the truest consolation and the best instruction.

* See the noble tribute to the memory of Mr. Pickering, contained in the *Law Reporter* (Vol. IX., p. 49), from the gifted pen of Charles Sumner, Esq. ; also his admired *Address before the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Harvard University, at their Anniversary, August 27, 1846.*

JOHN PICKERING was the eldest of ten children of the late Colonel Timothy and Rebecca White Pickering, and was born on the 7th day of February, 1777. His ancestors were of a most worthy character. The first of them known in this country was John Pickering, who was one of the early settlers of Salem, and in 1642 bought of Sir George Downing's father the farm on Broad street in that town, which has ever since descended in the male line of the family, and always, except in a single instance, has been owned by a John Pickering, as it still continues to be. On it stands the ancient and picturesque mansion, the late summer residence of our deceased friend, who by his skilful arrangements converted the greater portion of the farm into a beautiful and flourishing village.

Colonel Pickering was a vigilant and devoted father, but his whole soul was so absorbed in his country at that alarming crisis of her affairs, that he could bestow but a transient attention upon his son's early culture. Fortunately for this son, he was, like Sir William Jones, whom in other respects he so strongly resembled, blessed with a mother in every way qualified to fulfil the duties of both parents. In his intelligent, docile, and sweet disposition she beheld the image of her own gentle spirit, and she could not fail in all her intercourse with him to exert a propitious influence upon his opening mind and character. He had an excellent uncle, too, the Honorable

John Pickering, who lived in Salem, and who indulged for him all the feelings of a parent. John and Timothy Pickering were only brothers, and their souls were knit together in the closest friendship. Both were zealous Whig patriots, renowned for their integrity and steadfastness. John was graduated at Harvard College in 1759, four years before his younger brother, and was one of the original founders of the American Academy. He sustained various important public trusts, and at the time of his nephew's infancy was Speaker of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts. They had seven sisters, all of whom were married and had families, some of which were highly distinguished. Young John, bearing the favorite ancestral name, and possessing uncommon attractions, was the object of observation as well as interest, without being exposed to those fond and admiring attentions which are so apt to foster vanity and selfishness.

As it is our desire to show from his example how characters like his may be formed, where natural gifts like his are bestowed, and how human excellence is best attained, whatever may be the endowments of nature, we shall freely avail ourselves of the most authentic information we possess, without using the family correspondence, of the early development of his faculties and the progress of his education. There are four periods which deserve distinct attention;—the five or six years of childhood, before he went to

any school; his years at school; his four years in college; and his four following years abroad.

The first of these periods, though so little thought of generally, was to him, perhaps, next in importance to his college life, for in it was laid the foundation of his character and intellectual habits. Providence appears to have ordered the circumstances of it better for his improvement than human wisdom would have done. He was in no common degree qualified by nature, both in his physical and mental constitution, for self-direction and self-cultivation. His senses, particularly his sight, hearing, and touch, were acute and delicate; so, too, were all his faculties and feelings. He had a curiosity all alive, together with a memory quick and retentive. His mechanical ingenuity was as early manifested as his intellectual vigor. Happy was it for him, that he was exposed to no luxurious gratifications or excessive indulgences of any kind. Happy, too, probably, that he had no teacher but his mother, aided by the influence of his admirable father, and that he was in so great a degree left to be his own teacher.

During this period, his father, being attached to the Revolutionary army, had no fixed place of abode for his family, and they resided successively at Salem, Philadelphia, Newburgh, and then again at Philadelphia and in its vicinity. It was not till their second residence at Philadelphia that a good school could be obtained for John, which was a subject of frequent

regret with his mother, but doubtless all the better for him. His lively curiosity and love of knowledge had become remarkable before he was two years old, evinced particularly by a continued attention and interest in his observation of things. Nearly at the same time he commenced his philological career. Of his own accord he took it into his head to learn to read; and, at the age of two years, he could repeat the letters of the alphabet, and in speaking would readily join adjectives and verbs to his nouns. Before he was five years old, he could read without spelling, and spell without book, rarely missing a word which he had once read, however little affinity the letters might have to the sound. Such was the self-taught infant philologist.

We allude to these facts, not as being very wonderful in themselves, but as illustrating his natural powers and turn of mind, as well as his intellectual habits. His early devotion to learning led directly to those habits of observation, attention, and application, which were among his greatest advantages as a scholar. Equally fortunate was he in the early development of his affections and his moral nature. Besides the kindest care, he received the most judicious religious nurture, and constantly enjoyed the influence of examples which tended to produce in him the generous and noble virtues. It was perfectly natural that he should become what he was, truly magnanimous, and one of the most unselfish of human beings.

Thus prepared by himself, under the eye of his mother, he entered his first school at Philadelphia when he was about six years of age. His aptitude for wisdom and goodness, as well as for learning, had already inspired entire confidence, and disposed his parents to seek for him the best advantages of education. At this school, in addition to the usual English exercises, he attended to the French language, and pursued his studies with so much ardor and closeness of application, that some relaxation became necessary for his health. With a view to this, his father, in 1786, sent him on a visit to his uncle and other friends in Salem. He took only his French books with him, expecting soon to return. But it was otherwise ordered. His uncle, who had now retired from public life, and was living on the family estate with a widowed sister and her only daughter, never having been married himself, became so attached to his beloved nephew, that he could not consent to part with him. Without formally adopting him, he ever after treated him as a son, and never was any parent more blessed in an own son.

John, thus made a fixed resident in Salem, at the age of nine years, soon resumed his studies with renewed health and energy. His character, having received such a powerful impulse in the right direction, could not fail to be carried forward in strength as well as excellence under the somewhat sterner influences which were now brought to bear upon him. In his

uncle, alike dignified, wise, and affectionate, he found the best of domestic guides. His master in the Latin Grammar School was Belcher Noyes, an experienced teacher, and a man of some classical learning, as it would seem from a Latin grammar of which he was the author. His writing-master was Edward Norris, of whom he took lessons every day, for some length of time, with complete success. He was remarkable for his handwriting before he left Philadelphia, and it deserves notice here as one of his distinguished literary accomplishments. The handwriting, it has been said, indicates the writer's character. In him, certainly, both were alike clear, simple, and beautiful. Nothing perplexing was ever found either in his chirography or his character. The rank which he speedily attained as a classical scholar was high, as might be inferred from a fact related by a venerable gentleman, now living, — which deserves remembrance, too, as having served to swell the tide of good influences then bearing upon him. When President Washington visited Salem, in 1789, young Pickering was placed at the head of the Latin school in the procession on that occasion. What more powerful incentive to all that is good and great could he have received, than the honor of thus meeting the saviour of his country and his father's friend?

Thomas Bancroft, a true scholar and gentleman from Harvard College, afterwards the distinguished Clerk of the Judicial Courts in Essex county, suc-

ceeded Mr. Noyes in the Latin Grammar School, and completed Mr. Pickering's preparation for the University. In this excellent instructor he found a no less excellent friend, for whom he cherished a high regard. But, though fitted for college by Mr. Bancroft, he was offered for admission by his father, who took the liveliest delight in his son's character and scholarship, and came from Philadelphia, probably on purpose to enjoy the pleasure of presenting him to the University at Cambridge. After being honorably admitted, in July, 1792, he accompanied his father to Philadelphia, where he passed a happy vacation.

On leaving his parents to join his class at Cambridge, he did not leave behind him their good influence, which was blended with all his thoughts and feelings, and kept alive by an affectionate and frank correspondence with his father. He found, too, at the University a never-failing supply of good counsel from the friendship of his cousin, the Rev. Dr. Clarke of Boston, who took a deep interest in his welfare, and was honored by him as his "oracle." He found also in his teachers and guides—in Willard, Tappan, Pearson, Webber, and their associates—men of piety as well as learning, whose whole example and influence pointed to heaven, and led the way.

These were distinguished advantages, but not more distinguished than were his fidelity and wisdom in the improvement of them. Dr. Clarke introduces those beautiful "Letters to a Student in the Univer-

sity of Cambridge," which were addressed to him, by alluding to other peculiar advantages. "Your superior qualifications," he says, "for admission into the University give you singular advantages for the prosecution of your studies." "Happy for you, they who superintended your education were less anxious that you should be early fitted than that you should be well fitted for the University. You were, therefore, indulged with a year extraordinary in preparatory studies." "Thus informed, you begin the college life with every advantage. You have anticipated the academical studies, and, if you persevere, your future improvements must be answerable to your present acquisitions. Four important years are now before you."

Important years indeed, — for good or for evil! To John Pickering they were full-fraught with good. To some others they have proved calamitous. How is this to be accounted for? Here, Gentlemen, is a problem worthy of your Christian philanthropy, and your most profound philosophical wisdom. What problem in the material world has stronger claims on your attention, as men of science and learning, pledged to advance the best interests of humanity? Since the institution of your Academy, many of its expressed objects of scientific inquiry have been successively assumed by other associations specially devoted to them. Why, then, may you not give attention to some of your implied duties, and pursue inquiries in

the intellectual and moral world, — inquiries alike practical and philosophical, and more immediately connected with the loftiest object of your institution, — the advancement of the honor, dignity, and happiness of a free people? Might not the laws of man's moral nature be more clearly understood? Might not the knowledge of them be made more effectual for the attainment of his best education? Such inquiries would seem particularly appropriate to the American Academy, which was originally designed to be subservient to the great objects of our venerable University.

I pray you, Gentlemen, to pardon this suggestion, and accept it as my apology, if I should appear to pay a disproportioned attention to Mr. Pickering's academical life.

His advantages, upon entering the University, were certainly great, and in some respects peculiar. But they did not consist in his extraordinary intellectual acquirements, or his fine natural powers, or in both together, so much as in his complete moral and religious training, his cherished love of learning, his correct habits, his filial piety, which made the wishes of his parents and uncle his own, and that wisdom, so rare in youth, which led him to follow experienced guides rather than prejudiced companions, and not only to shun all noxious habits, but, like his prototype, Sir William Jones, to avail himself of every "opportunity of improving his intellectual faculties,

or of acquiring esteemed accomplishments." Such as these were his preëminent advantages. Some of those students who have most signally failed in their collegiate course were, like him, distinguished for their mental powers and preparatory acquirements, wanting only his moral strength and his wisdom. How it might have been with him, had his mother, instead of her gentle religious nurture, given him lessons of frivolity and fashion, and had his father and his uncle been as observable for their selfish indulgences as they were remarkable for their public and private virtues and their exalted Christian character, and had his teachers, moreover, instilled into him the poison of an irreligious example, we can only conjecture. So, too, we can only conjecture what sort of a character King George the Fourth might have become, had he received the nurture and education which blessed the youth of John Pickering. But while we believe that the laws of the moral universe are as fixed in their operation as those of the material world, we cannot doubt that the result, in either case, would have been essentially the reverse of what it was.

Mr. Pickering entered the University at a juncture when all his strength of principle and all his wisdom were needed to guide him through the trying scenes that awaited him. The tempests of excitement and disorder swept over his class, in their Sophomore year, prostrating numbers of them apparently as

strong as himself. Expulsion, rustication, suspension, all followed in rapid succession, for offences to which nothing could have prompted the student but those maddening stimulants, the plague of which no one then knew how to stay. Pickering's virtuous sensibility was outraged by the terrific ravages of this moral plague, as he manifested at the time by a characteristic expression of his abhorrence, — quoting those emphatic lines of Virgil : —

“ Non, mihi si linguæ centum sint oraque centum,
 Ferrea vox, omnes scelerum comprehendere formas
 possim.”

It was at this period that the late Judge Lowell, then one of the corporate body of the University, declared the exalted sentiment, that, rather than endure such evils among the students, he would send them off till he had made college a perfect chasm, and then start anew on the right ground.

Pickering's moral indignation, however, bore no unkindness to his offending fellow-students. His heart teemed with sentiments of candor, generosity, and true honor. Nothing of the ascetic or recluse appeared in his disposition or manners. He mingled freely with his classmates in their pleasures and sports, their “jests and youthful jollities,” insisting only, that, so far as he was concerned, they should be innocent and proper. And this was a condition exacted by his very nature, unconsciously as it were to himself. His simplicity and singleness of heart were as re-

markable as his purity and elevation of mind. He joined the various social as well as literary clubs, even the gayest of them, the more readily, doubtless, from the very cause which might have restrained others, — a natural diffidence, which he felt it his duty to overcome. The musical club, or Sodality, was best suited to his taste, and afforded him the highest gratification. He cultivated music with delight, both as an art and as a science, and was distinguished in college for his performance on the flute and the violin, as well as for his skill in vocal harmony. As president of the Sodality, he introduced an improved style of music in their performances. Social music became his favorite diversion, affording him through life a lively enjoyment and recreation.

In the whole course of his studies, he manifested a genuine independence and a wise foresight, as well as an energetic industry. Upon his entrance into college, he was surprised to find in what low estimation classical learning was held by the students. Scarcely one among them could be found to do it reverence. The times, however, were very peculiar. The innovating spirit of the French Revolution was raging in the world, and ancient learning, least of all, could expect to escape its baleful influence.

But no example or influence could tempt Mr. Pickering to forsake his first love. He faltered not for a moment in his devotion to a liberal pursuit of classical studies, thoroughly mastering those embraced by his

stated exercises, and extending his knowledge much farther both of ancient languages and the literature contained in them. In all his voluntary studies he loved to have friendly companions, and his literary attractions failed not to draw them to him. One of my respected classmates, a learned scholar and divine of this city, who sympathized with Mr. Pickering in all his philological researches, has told me of the delightful hours they passed together at Cambridge in reading various classic authors; and he remembers another classmate as having been attracted to join them, now as distinguished at the American bar as he then was in college. He remembers, also, the gratification with which they welcomed the addition to their number of a fine classical scholar from England, who entered Mr. Pickering's class at an advanced period, and most heartily sustained him in his favorite studies. I take pleasure in alluding to these bright examples, as being illustrative not only of Mr. Pickering's character and influence, but also of the tendency of classical learning itself to produce such examples.

These favorite studies, however, were not allowed to occupy more than their due proportion of Mr. Pickering's time in college. The mathematics and natural philosophy were studied by him with scarcely less ardor, and with equal success; nor was any branch of learning overlooked by him, which he had an opportunity to cultivate. Academic honors had no influence in shaping his plans of study or his rules

of conduct. So far from this, he dreaded them, as an unwelcome visitation, if they required his speaking before the public. He pursued knowledge for its intrinsic value and because he loved it; and conducted himself nobly by following out his inbred sense of propriety and Christian duty.

His father, being a member of President Washington's administration, was too much engaged by his public duties to do more for his son's improvement in college than by occasionally writing to him. Such a father, however, could not fail to do much in this way, and to exert a powerful influence upon such a son. Their correspondence, were it open to us, would afford the best illustration of Mr. Pickering's condition and circumstances in college, as well as of the motives which governed him, and the manliness and moral beauty of his youthful character. An intimate college companion remembers some of the father's letters, and the excellent instructions they contained. It is to be hoped, that, at some day, they may be permitted to see the light.

Mr. Pickering enjoyed his college life in a high degree, and justly appreciated its privileges; yet he felt the want of an instructor in elocution, and, unlike some students of that day, he lamented the inability of the professor who taught English composition to attend to his class in that exercise, which he considered among the most important in college. By such disadvantages he was stimulated to greater diligence

in supplying himself with instruction. In the practice of speaking he found much aid from an ancient secret society, composed of select members from the two middle classes, called the Speaking Club, then in high esteem; the members of which held regular meetings for declamation and mutual improvement, and were alike faithful and kind in pointing out each other's faults of elocution, sometimes entering into discussions which served to accustom them to extemporaneous speaking. At that period, also, the resident members of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, during the Senior year, were a working society for mutual improvement in composition, reasoning, and elocution. They had frequent meetings within the walls of college, at which the members, in turn, produced and read dissertations or forensic arguments, which, with occasional colloquial discussions, were found highly useful. Mr. Pickering could not fail to make them so to himself. His leisure hours, too, whether given to social intercourse and recreation, or to classical and other well-chosen reading, were fraught with improvement of much value. His learned friend, Dr. Clarke, was ever ready not only to advise him as to the course of his reading, but to lend him the best books for his purpose.

In his knowledge of the French language he had greatly the advantage of most of his classmates. His chief object at college in respect to this was to acquire a correct pronunciation of the language, in which

he was remarkably successful, his instructor being a native of France, and particularly pleased to give him the attention which he desired. He had, indeed, a peculiar facility, in all the foreign tongues which he studied, in acquiring ease and correctness of pronunciation. His delicately tuned ear was in this an excellent guide. Thorough and complete knowledge was sought by him in all his studies. Hence he accustomed himself to the practice of writing in the principal languages he acquired, — a practice which he commenced at college in the French, and continued afterwards in the Portuguese, Italian, Latin, Greek, and some other tongues. No intellectual labor was irksome to him which looked to the increase or improvement of his knowledge.

Though Mr. Pickering had no thought of ever becoming a medical student, yet, in pursuance of the principle to avail himself of all opportunities of acquiring valuable information, he attended, in his Senior year, Dr. Warren's lectures on anatomy, and Dr. Dexter's on chemistry. With the former he was greatly delighted, as affording him both instruction and entertainment in a high degree. The latter, from the nature of the subject, were far less interesting; yet he was stimulated by them to unite with several of his classmates in pursuing the study by themselves, making such experiments as with their small apparatus were in their power.

The peculiar delicacy of Mr. Pickering's mind and

feelings exposed him, in early life, to no little suffering from diffidence, which it required all his resolution and sense of duty to overcome, and which, perhaps, he never entirely subdued. Yet few ever exceeded him in dignity of mind, strength of character, and firm, uncompromising principle. From his modest reluctance to speak in public, he would have gladly avoided his first college honor, a part in an English dialogue, at an exhibition in his Junior year; but his resolution enabled him to perform it to the gratification of his friends, as it did also his second part, a finely written Latin oration on Classical Learning, a subject suggested to him by his ever-attentive friend, Dr. Clarke. Great as was his enthusiasm for classical learning, he had, in college, as real a love for the study of the mathematics, and highly distinguished himself in this department. Near the close of his Senior year, he received the honor of a mathematical part, which appeared to give him more pleasure than all his other college honors. It afforded him an opportunity to manifest his profound scholarship in a manner most agreeable to his feelings. When he had delivered to the Corporation and Overseers this part, containing solutions of problems by fluxions, he had the rare satisfaction to be told that one of them was more elegant than the solution of the great Simpson, who wrote a treatise on fluxions, in which the same problem was solved by him. Such was the distinguished honor that crowned Mr. Pickering's intellectual labors in college.

At his Commencement, he had assigned to him a new part, one never before introduced, which, with the subject, was intended by the government as a particular honor to him, and his classical friend before mentioned, from England. This was an English colloquy, and the subject given them was, "A Panegyric on Classic Literature." The execution of the part was honorable to both, and formed a suitable close to Mr. Pickering's academical life.

At this important era, which fixed the character of his whole earthly career, we may be allowed to pause for a moment to contemplate his attainments and his example. His education, in all its essential objects, was now complete. Together with the acquisition of a rich fund of various learning, all his faculties were so disciplined and improved, his love of knowledge so inflamed, and his ambition so exalted, that he could not fail to extend his views, and urge his pursuit of learning with increased energy. Alike powerful in mind and pure in heart, amiable, intelligent, and armed with all the strength of virtue and religious principle, he was prepared to enter the world of action, temptation, and trial. He at once inspired respect, together with the most entire confidence, wherever he became known, in the stability of his principles. They who intimately knew him would as soon have thought that one of the planets would shoot from its orbit, as that he would depart from his honorable course.

Whether, as many of his classmates affirmed, he bore from the University the reputation of being the first scholar of his class, it is of little consequence to inquire ; nor is it material to measure very exactly the magnitude or extent of his talents ; it is enough to know that they were not so great as to raise him above the strictest virtue, or the least of moral obligations, and that in accomplishing his education he made himself a model scholar, and laid the foundation of his eminent distinction and usefulness in life. To profit from his example, we must learn how he attained to such excellence. For this purpose it is that we have traced so carefully the progress of his education, and considered his advantages and disadvantages, and the manner in which he improved them ; for he appears to have improved both, or rather to have made what were regarded as disadvantages the means of greater improvement. Though he regretted that more complete instruction was not afforded in some departments of education, yet it was doubtless better for him, with his enlightened industry and wise disposition of his time, to have too few than too many teachers, and to enjoy undisturbed the best hours of the day for study, than to pass through the most skilful process of recitation. The professors and tutors, whom it was his good fortune to have through college, were able teachers and admirable guides ; and, if they taught not all things, they misled in nothing. Had it been otherwise with them, it might

have been otherwise with him ; for who can be safe, when guides mislead ? Mere defect of instruction he could supply for himself, better perhaps than others, with some additional advantages from the spontaneous and independent exertion of his faculties. His fidelity in attending to his stated exercises and observing all the proprieties of a conduct at once courteous, manly, and upright, was not more extraordinary than his industry and sagacity in employing his leisure time to extend his classical and philosophical learning, and to acquire the most valuable accomplishments. Even his hours of convivial recreation were subservient to the growth of his social and generous virtues, and his favorite pleasure consisted in the cultivation and practice of one of the most delightful of the fine arts.

Of all whom I have ever known, from our own or any other University, no one appears better entitled than Mr. Pickering to be regarded as the MODEL SCHOLAR. In saying this, I pronounce his highest eulogium, and present his strongest claim upon the public gratitude. Vast and comprehensive as was his matured learning, and valuable as were its fruits to his country and the world, the finished model he has left for guiding the studies and forming the character of the scholar and the man is infinitely more precious. Any student, commonly well endowed, who has a soul capable of aspiring to excellence, — and what young man, devoting himself to a liberal education, is desti-

tute of such a soul? — may find in this model an unerring guide to the attainment of his lofty object. Faithfully following his guide, he cannot fail of success. One condition only is indispensable, — a condition, too, altogether in his own favor. He must begin and persevere in the spirit of his model. He must abjure every indulgence which has the least tendency to impair his moral or his mental energies, or to induce any injurious or unseemly habit. “*Procul, O procul!*” must be the earnest exclamation of his heart against every form and aspect of moral evil. Thus persevering, he will find his progress as delightful as his success is certain.

The instructor, equally with the student, may gain wisdom from the contemplation of such a model, — the model of a character which it is his peculiar province to form. The faithful ship-builder spares no pains in studying the best model of his art, and making his work strong and complete. Much more will the faithful builder of a human character, freighted with treasures of immortal value, seek the highest degree of perfection in his work. Here, in this noblest of human works, the “wise master-builder” is deserving of all honor. He entitles himself preëminently to the gratitude of mankind.

I trust, Gentlemen, you will not regard these remarks, intended as they are to elucidate Mr. Pickering’s distinguishing merits, as an impertinent digression, or charge me with a waste of your time in

dwelling so long upon that portion of his life which is sometimes passed by with a single glance. It is more pleasing, I know, to admire the ripened fruit than to watch the culture of the vine or the tree which bears it; but the latter is quite as useful an employment as the former. Having witnessed the planting of a noble tree, and carefully observed its early culture, its growth and expansion, its full foliage and fair blossoms, we may not only admire its fruit, but understand the means by which it is produced.

A smiling Providence appears to have guided Mr. Pickering at every step of his progress. Upon leaving the University and returning to his parents in Philadelphia, he found himself in the very situation which, of all others, he must have preferred for his continued advancement in various excellence. His father, then Secretary of State, introduced him at once into the most intellectual and cultivated society, and afforded every desirable opportunity for the gratification of his literary taste and ambition. Having chosen the law for his profession, he entered the office of Edward Tilghman, Esq., and closely pursued his legal studies for about nine months, when he was appointed secretary of legation to William Smith, who had been a distinguished member of Congress from South Carolina, and was then to be our minister at the court of Lisbon. Nothing could have been more agreeable to Mr. Pickering than such an appointment. It opened a delightful prospect for the indulgence of

his curiosity in seeing Europe, and for the extension of his literary and philosophical researches. In Mr. Smith, who was as remarkable for his amiable disposition as for his talents, he was sure to find a most valuable friend and companion.

During his short residence in Philadelphia, he generally devoted his early morning hours, as well as his evenings, to classical reading. He assured a friend, whom he had left a student at Cambridge, and whom he wished to imbue with a genuine love of ancient learning, that, instead of seeing the inutility of the classics, as many of his classmates had predicted he would, he was fully convinced of their value, and was then pursuing them, particularly Greek, with more ardor than ever. His ardor in the pursuit and promotion of Greek literature, as we all know, never abated.

In August, 1797, Mr. Pickering, after a voyage of twenty-seven days, arrived at Lisbon. On the passage he studied the Portuguese language, so that, by taking a few lessons after his arrival, he was able to speak it with tolerable ease. Most of his time in Portugal was passed at Lisbon, except during the hot months of summer, when Mr. Smith resided at Cintra, a beautiful rural retreat, much resorted to by the wealthy inhabitants of Lisbon. Here Mr. Pickering, little inclined to mingle in the fashionable amusements going on around him, had leisure for his own pursuits, and found constant enjoyment among the orange and

lemon groves abounding there, and from the mountainous, romantic scenery of the place. He used to speak of some other excursions from Lisbon. He visited the famous monastery of Batalha, a grand specimen of elaborate antique architecture, which made a deep impression upon his mind, and he often spoke of it afterwards with enthusiastic admiration. He also visited the ancient University of Coimbra, where the venerable professors paid him the kindest attentions, and at parting embraced him as a friend. He had, indeed, always a language of the intellect, heart, and manner, alike intelligible and pleasing to all, which at once secured him friends wherever he went.

He travelled little to see the country. Much as he loved nature, he loved humanity more. Whatever related to the human mind, or to human society, in any state or form of its existence, — institutions, laws, manners, arts, education, language, — engaged his deep attention. In pursuing his studies at Lisbon, he felt at first the want of books; but making friends, in his wonted manner, of some learned monks, whom he visited in an old convent, he obtained through their kindness those which he most needed. The civil law and the law of nations, with the study of languages, were the leading objects of his attention. He read Vattel's *Law of Nations*, in the original French, and entered upon Justinian's *Institutes*. Meeting with a learned native of Damascus, where the

Arabic language was spoken in its greatest purity, he studied that language; and, at the same time, made it the occasion of acquiring a more familiar knowledge of the literature and affairs of Portugal, by conversations on these subjects with his friendly instructor, who had lived many years in the country. He also studied the Italian language at this time, and probably the Spanish. It having been expected that Mr. Smith would be sent on a mission to Constantinople, Mr. Pickering indulged the pleasing vision of seeing the East, and treading the classic ground of Greece and Rome. With this view, he undertook the study of the Turkish language; but the mission to that country was abandoned, and he never realized his anticipated delight.

In Lisbon, as in college, music was his favorite social recreation. Mr. Smith himself had a fine taste for music, and the musical parties among his friends were to Mr. Pickering a source of instruction as well as entertainment. He joined them on the flute, and thus acquired that correct taste and cultivation which he could hardly have obtained at that time in his own country. He became so well versed in the science of music, that in later life he took much pleasure in explaining its principles to his young friends. His mechanical ingenuity, which discovered itself so early in life, was perhaps most manifested in his practical knowledge of the construction of musical instruments.

The noble father kept a steady eye upon his son's

higher improvement, and therefore, satisfactory as was his connection with Mr. Smith, he made arrangements for his removal to London, where his advantages would be more ample. During the two years he had passed with Mr. Smith, their mutual regard had ripened into the sincerest friendship, and, on parting with him, Mr. Smith expressed his exalted esteem, and his deep regret at losing the society of so estimable a companion and friend.

Under the continued smiles of Providence, Mr. Pickering found himself, in November, 1799, happily situated in the family of Rufus King, our minister at the court of St. James, surrounded by the most desirable means of intellectual progress and rational enjoyment. He was honored by an intimate reception in the family of Christopher Gore, then at London, residing in Mr. King's immediate vicinity. He gained the warm friendship of both these eminent gentlemen, and met in their respective families the best society, whether for his taste or his manners. His social pleasures at this time were of a high order, and rendered altogether delightful by the simultaneous arrival in London of a classmate of kindred sentiment and taste, who afforded him all that exquisite enjoyment of confidential intercourse which springs from college friendship.* This beloved friend survives to honor his memory and bear witness to his worth. He had access to his inmost thoughts and feelings, and can

* Dr. James Jackson.

put the seal of truth to the strongest lines of excellence which I have drawn. I have only to regret that his skilful and delicate pencil was not employed to paint the picture.

Our consul at London was Samuel Williams, Mr. Pickering's friend and cousin, who freely offered to advance whatever funds he might desire for the purchase of books. His father having encouraged him to indulge his inclination in such an expenditure, he availed himself largely of Mr. Williams's kind offer, and selected and brought home with him an extensive and choice library, which in the end became a rich acquisition to the literature of New England.

Mr. Pickering was the private secretary of Mr. King, and also the instructor of his sons in their vacations from school; but he found much time for his literary pursuits. These were such as we should naturally suppose, from his taste and settled habits of study; and his proficiency was in proportion to the excellence of his habits and his disciplined powers of mind. His ardent curiosity and love of knowledge, his keen, philosophical observation, his clear perception, sound, discriminating judgment, and close, penetrating attention, with his strong and exact memory, all improved by constant exercise, and aided by a judicious observance of order and method, will go far to account for his acquirements at this period, as well as for the vast accession afterwards made to his learning and intellectual ability. Together with his un-

remitting industry, he possessed the mighty power of concentrating his whole attention upon the object before him, and pursuing it with intense application. This he acquired the habit of doing, like his illustrious friend Bowditch, in the midst of his family, without being disturbed by conversation carried on around him, or even diverted by music, which he so loved; yet cheerfully submitting to necessary interruptions, and instantly returning again to his laborious mental work.

All his spare time, after fulfilling his duties to Mr. King and to society, was devoted to the various juridical and philological studies which he pursued in so systematic and thorough a manner. Taylor's *Elements of the Civil Law* he completely mastered, making it a point to read entirely through the various recondite Greek quotations with which the work abounds, — an entertainment, we venture to say, never before indulged in by any American lawyer. In connection with this, he read parts of Livy relating to the Roman law and constitution, investigating any matters of difference between these authors. He, of course, kept up his intimacy with the classic writers of Greece and Rome, and read various learned works connected with them, among the most considerable of which was Havercamp's *Sylloge Scriptorum de Linguae Græcæ Pronuntiatione*. He generally took up first in the morning some ancient author, most frequently Cicero, delighting at such moments to read a

portion of his ethical or philosophical writings. His practice now, as in college, was to pursue different studies each day, mingling with the severer the more lively. Along with Taylor, which he made a severe study, he read through Dryden's prose works, which, with his philological taste and views, were highly entertaining. With Euclid's Geometry, Locke's Human Understanding, and the philological works of Harris and Murray, he read a copious history of the French Revolution, and several works of Edmund Burke on the same eventful subject, — an author with whom he was greatly delighted on all subjects, and of whose genius and sagacity he appeared through life to feel an increasing admiration.

As Mr. King passed the summer seasons at Mill-hill, a fine rural situation about five miles from London, Mr. Pickering availed himself of the opportunity it afforded for the study of botany, and with the aid of Professor Martyn's lectures he acquired a competent knowledge of that beautiful science, which became a source of refined gratification to him, and never more so than when he had the pleasure to impart it in his own family.

But Mr. Pickering was not so devoted to his studies as to overlook any important means of information. He occasionally attended the meetings of Parliament and the courts of law, especially the Admiralty Court, where Sir William Scott was the judge, in the proceedings of which he was particu-

larly interested, from its connection with the law of nations, and from its having before it various American cases. Though the theatre, in its ordinary performances, had no attractions for him, yet he went to hear Kemble and Mrs. Siddons, and was deeply impressed by the transcendent powers of the latter. In all his attendance on English speaking, whether in the Parliament, the courts, or the theatre, he was a strict observer of the use and pronunciation of the language, and had already begun to note peculiarities of expression, with a view to ascertain how far the true English tongue was corrupted in America.

Mr. Pickering's incessant occupations prevented his journeying much in England. He failed not, however, to visit Oxford, where he could find so much to gratify his highest curiosity. His classical and mathematical scholarship, but for his modesty, might have made him feel more at home either at Oxford or Cambridge than anywhere else in England.

Fortunately, he had an opportunity to visit the Continent before his return to America. In the winter and spring of 1801, he passed three or four months in travelling through France and the Netherlands. In Paris, he was introduced to Madame de Staël, the object of attraction to the literati and politicians of the day. He saw Bonaparte at the height of his renown, with Italy at his feet, whose noblest works of art he had transported to France. As a lover of the fine arts, Mr. Pickering could almost visit Rome

in Paris. At Leyden, he became acquainted with the celebrated Luzac, Greek professor in the University, who afterwards honored him with his correspondence. In Amsterdam, he gained the friendship of Dr. Ballhorn, who soon after published a learned juridical work, dedicated "Viro clarissimo Joanni Pickering." To a youthful scholar such testimonials of merit must have been as gratifying as they were honorable.

Soon after Mr. Pickering's return from the Continent, he set his face homewards. The extensive library, before alluded to, was collected by him with great care, partly in Portugal and partly during his travels in France and Holland, but principally among the booksellers of London, through whom he found access to some of the rarest treasures both of ancient and modern learning. This library was no unworthy representative of the treasures stored in his mind. He had been as wise and faithful in the use of books, as he was skilful in the selection of them. No one better knew the true value and purpose of books, or made them more effectually the means of practical wisdom and goodness. Not the slightest tinge of pedantry ever appeared in his conversation or manner.

"Ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes

Emollit mores, nec sinit esse feros."

Mr. Pickering studied literature and the fine arts both with fidelity and delight. Not only music, but poetry, painting, architecture, and especially sculpture,

gave him pleasure as lively as it was refined. The influence of these favorite pursuits appeared in his disposition, affections, and whole conduct, and, together with the effect of the best society, gave a peculiar charm to his manners ; which were so simple as not to arrest observation, and yet so refined as to bear the closest scrutiny, and which, having their foundation in his good heart, and being guided by the nicest discrimination as well as true delicacy of feeling, were sure to recommend him to the favorable regard of all, and to the cordial respect of the most worthy.

We might abundantly show the high estimation in which Mr. Pickering's character and talents were held by his eminent friends, Rufus King and William Smith, were their correspondence with his father at our disposal. But for this we must wait till the long hoped-for biography of this pure, ardent, and able patriot and statesman is given to the world ; — a service of filial piety, which it was in the heart of our lamented friend to render, but which now, alas ! must be performed by another.

In November, 1801, Mr. Pickering, with his noble library, after a stormy and perilous voyage of forty-five days, arrived in Boston. Few scholars ever had a more brilliant return from abroad, or a warmer welcome home. One disappointment, however, awaited him on his arrival ; — he did not meet his revered father, who was far away in the interior of Pennsyl-

vania, out of office, enjoying the purest reward of laborious patriotism, — the veneration of his country and — *an honorable poverty*. This led to another disappointment. Mr. Pickering, in the purchase of his precious library, relying upon his father's advice and resources, had incurred a debt, which he had now no means of discharging but from the library itself. To part with any portion of this cost him a struggle, but the moment he saw it to be his duty the struggle was over. He sold more than two thousand volumes by public auction, under such favorable auspices as enabled him to cancel his debt, and to retain the residue of his books, to him probably the most valuable part.

Thus a smiling Providence returned, but not to him only ; the friends of learning shared it with him. The distribution of such a collection of books, together with his own bright example, gave an important impulse to the pursuit of ancient learning. The classic Buckminster soon after imported, on his return from Europe, a similar collection, which, at his deplored death, were in like manner dispersed through our literary community. The germ of the Boston Athenæum, too, may, doubtless, be traced to the sale of Mr. Pickering's library and the effective impulse which it sent abroad.

Colonel Pickering, ever watchful to secure for his son the highest advantages, had made some arrangements for the completion of his law studies with the

late eminent Theophilus Parsons, influenced partly, perhaps, by an old family friendship, — Mr. Parsons having been named for the Colonel's uncle, the Rev. Theophilus Pickering, and been consequently a welcome guest in his father's family. But the earnest wishes of the good uncle, whose unvarying affection had followed Mr. Pickering from infancy, prevailed with him to return to Salem, where he entered the office of Mr. Putnam, afterwards a judge of the Supreme Judicial Court.

Here, attracted by Mr. Pickering's well known character, I joined him, to finish my own professional studies. While he had been abroad, expanding his views of men as well as books, I had been confined to a didactic sphere within the walls of college. On emerging into the world, nothing could have been more welcome to me than such a companion. His society was alike instructive and delightful. It brightened the whole time I was with him, and made it one of the sunniest spots of my life. From that moment, I was for many years a close observer of him in public and in private, at the bar and among his friends, in his walks and amid his studies, in the bosom of his family and at my own fireside, and to my view his whole path of life was luminous with truth and goodness, — never obscured, no, not for a moment, by the slightest shade of obliquity in him. I cannot withhold this cordial testimony. To the eye of reflecting age, truth and goodness are every thing,

mere genius and fame nothing, — in the comparison, absolutely nothing.

It was while we were thus together in Mr. Putnam's office, that Mr. Pickering revised an edition of Sallust; an edition pronounced by an able critic in *The Monthly Anthology* to be "in every respect preferable to the Dauphin Sallust," and "not unworthy of the classical reputation of the reputed editor."

Justly to appreciate this literary labor (if labor that may be called which was a pleasant recreation), it is necessary to understand the circumstances under which it was performed. Certain booksellers in Salem, having determined to publish a reprint of Sallust, asked of Mr. Pickering the favor to correct the proof-sheets, which he was unwilling to grant without making it the occasion of some valuable improvement. Hence the revised edition. President Willard, of Harvard University, was consulted about it, as the college government had recently made this author a preparatory study for admission, and his suggestions were followed in the undertaking, — an undertaking wholly gratuitous, and pursued rather as an amusement than as a work of elaborate care. It was, indeed, an interesting as well as liberal amusement, and I could not participate in it without receiving a strong impression of Mr. Pickering's classical taste and knowledge. Nearly the whole of this edition was destroyed by fire, before it had an opportunity to be tested by public opinion.

As evidence of Mr. Pickering's undiminished ardor in the pursuit of Greek literature, it deserves mention, that, when he was thus dividing his time at the office between Sallust and the law, he was employing a portion of his hours at home in reading an old edition of Homer with the scholia of Didymus. It appears to have been his practice through life thus industriously to mingle literary occupation with his domestic enjoyments.

In March, 1804, Mr. Pickering was admitted to the bar, and commenced the practice of law in Salem. On the third day of March, 1805, he was married to his second cousin, Sarah White, and in the following May they became members of the First Church in Salem, then under the pastoral care of the Rev. Dr. Prince, of which Mr. Pickering was made one of the ruling elders. This continued to be his place of worship while he remained in his native town, and also when he afterwards returned to it for his summer's residence. But on his removal to Boston, in 1827, he with his family attended public worship in an Episcopal church. He was truly liberal and generous, yielding in matters of opinion, as in other things, more than he claimed; for, with the Apostle, he attached less importance to particular tenets, than to "love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, faith." In all his relations, civil and religious, he was alike useful and exemplary, honored and beloved.

Though never inclined to a political life, Mr. Pickering sometimes acceded to the wishes of his friends so far as to partake in the administration of public affairs within our Commonwealth. For several years during the late war with England, he was a representative from Salem in the General Court, and after the war, for some years a senator from the county of Essex, then again from Suffolk, and once a member of the Executive Council. He was very early, as you know, elected a Fellow of the American Academy, and afterwards a member of the American Philosophical Society, and of various other learned bodies at home and abroad.* He also received the highest academic honors from more than one university. But political and exterior honors appear of little importance in connection with his intellectual career. His true distinction springs directly from his intrinsic excellence.

In following Mr. Pickering through his education, and during his residence abroad, — which was but an extension of it, — we have traced his progress more minutely than is necessary in pointing out the results of his education and learning. It is not so important that we should have a complete view of his labors and literary productions, as that we should clearly understand the spirit and the principles which actuated him in accomplishing them. Few may expect to enter into his labors, or to attain to his distinc-

* Note A.

tion ; nor is that material ; but all, of whatever profession or employment, may imbibe his generous spirit and act from his exalted principles, and this is the essential thing.

His first publication, after his admission to the bar, was an oration delivered in Salem, on the fourth of July, 1804, which was received by his political friends with distinguished marks of favor, and published at their desire. Its sound and philosophical views of government, and its able exposition of public affairs, and the spirit and progress of parties in the United States, with its clear, appropriate, and manly style, give it a permanent value, and render it particularly interesting, as one of Mr. Pickering's earliest productions.

We are reminded by this oration of the opinion, which Mr. Smith was known to express in Lisbon, that Mr. Pickering's abilities remarkably fitted him for a diplomatic career ; an opinion which became more manifestly just, as he advanced in the improvement of his abilities and the acquisition of general learning. His knowledge of jurisprudence, with his various literary and scientific attainments, eminently qualified him for any station in the government at home or abroad. And had the spirit of Washington continued to preside over the destinies of the country, such men as Mr. Pickering would have continued to be preferred for high political trusts. But, I think, we cannot doubt that our honored friend, both by

nature and education, belonged to learning, and not to politics, or even to the law, distinguished as he was in the science of jurisprudence.

“Spirits are not finely touched,
But to fine issues.”

Providence, in bestowing his rare philosophical and literary abilities, destined him for the purest intellectual pursuits. Spirits far less “finely touched” might, for that very reason, better succeed in the ordinary conflicts of the forum; conflicts, in which fine powers and finer feelings, like his, must be quite out of place. Instruments of exquisite metal and polish are not suited to work upon rude and rough materials.

When, therefore, upon the resignation of Dr. Eliphalet Pearson, Mr. Pickering was appointed, in June, 1806, Hancock Professor of Hebrew and other Oriental Languages in Harvard College, many of his friends, as well as friends of the University, were very desirous that he should accept the office, regarding it as a sphere in which his extraordinary learning and accomplishments would be most productive of benefit to the country and of honor to himself. The late Dr. Bowditch was, at the same moment, appointed to succeed President Webber as Hollis Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. A remarkable coincidence! These eminent men, near neighbours and intimate friends, were doubtless better qualified for the offices to which they

were respectively appointed than any other two individuals in the whole country. They were also admirably suited to coöperate in giving a spring to the University in all excellence, intellectual and moral. Both were liberal, elevated, and disinterested in their views of education and learning; both had an insatiable thirst for knowledge, and a supreme love of truth and goodness; the one was devoted to science, the other chiefly to literature; both were exalted and spotless in reputation, alike raised above all suspicion of moral failing, yet with some striking points of contrast; the one, quick and ardent, would leap to a logical conclusion at a single step; while the other, cautious and patient, like Lord Eldon, could never weigh his arguments or consider his subject too deliberately. “*Suaviter in modo, fortiter in re,*” was applicable to both; but the one could put aside his gentleness of manner when he felt it to be his duty; the other could hardly be brought to feel it a duty. Both were as exemplary in Christian virtue, in the exercise of social benevolence and the domestic affections, and in purity of habits, as they were distinguished in literature and science; and both would have discountenanced by their powerful example those indulgences and practices which often lead the young student into habits more injurious to him than any amount of learning can be beneficial. But both, to the deep regret of the University, declined their appointments.

Seven or eight years later, on the establishment of the Eliot Professorship of Greek Literature, Mr. Pickering was still more urgently pressed to be a candidate for the new professor's chair. A friend to him and to the University was authorized, by the President of Harvard College, to ascertain "whether any and what definite amount of compensation would induce him to accede to the proposition." But Mr. Pickering gave no encouragement for proceeding to his election. The literary duties, no doubt, were attractive, but the disciplinary cares connected with them had a forbidding aspect. Some of his friends, moreover, very naturally desired for him a sphere of usefulness which appeared to them more eminent and extensive. Nor were they too sanguine in their views of his future eminence. Yet who could now say that he might not have been still more extensively useful, had the direct influence of his superior powers and virtues, his teachings and his example, been exerted upon the numerous young men since educated at the University, and been diffused through them over our whole country?

Mr. Pickering was a grateful and devoted son of the University, which so justly appreciated his merits, and which, at a subsequent period, bestowed upon him its highest honors. For many years he was an efficient member of the Board of Overseers, always ready to exert his influence to advance the usefulness and reputation of his Alma Mater. His last admirable

report, as one of the visiting committee, in 1840, embodies views and principles of university education which ought never to be overlooked or forgotten.*

We need not dwell here upon his learning as a jurist, or upon his excellent qualities as a practising lawyer. These have been portrayed and exhibited on an occasion before referred to, in the best manner for extending their influence in the profession of which he was so bright an ornament. We should remember, however, that, while pursuing his extensive literary researches, and performing numberless intellectual labors for the public and for individuals, he was incessantly engaged, to the last year of his life, in the arduous duties of his profession, — duties which not unfrequently imposed upon him a drudgery as irksome as it was laborious. He felt the full weight of it, and but for those interesting questions which led him to examine principles, his profession, as he sometimes remarked, would have been nothing but labor and drudgery. Having ascended to the fountain-head of jurisprudence, and stored his mind with great principles, he took delight in tracing these in their practical application. In this view, he regarded his profession as a most honorable one. The friends of humanity and learning, however, will not cease to regret that the “labor and drudgery,” which others might have well performed, should have taken so much of his precious time from those noble intel-

* Note B.

lectual pursuits for which he was so peculiarly competent. Especially must they regret, that, on removing to the metropolis, where his powerful literary influence was so important, he should have felt it necessary to present himself only in his professional character. The office of city solicitor, which he held for a great number of years, brought with it much additional labor, though occasionally relieved by the occurrence of those interesting questions which he loved to investigate and settle. The numerous legal opinions which he was called upon to give, we are assured, were as remarkable for their soundness as for their learning.*

Mr. Pickering's literary productions and labors, aside from the practice of his profession, were so abundant and multifarious, that it is not possible for us, on this occasion, to take a complete or distinct view of them. We must classify them as well as we can, according to their kindred relation, contenting ourselves with some brief remarks.

First, we class together those writings which partake of a professional character, while they are also made attractive to the general reader. The most considerable of these, perhaps, is the able discussion of "National Rights and State Rights," which was drawn from him by the case of Alexander McLeod,—a case involving a question of the highest public importance,—"*dignus vindice nodus*." It was, indeed,

* Note C.

worthy of his interposition, and his learning and logical ability were equal to its solution. He brought to the discussion such a thorough knowledge of the subject, with such clear views of our federal and state relations, urged with such weight of argument, justice, and truth, that he settled this great national question upon principles which can never be shaken. For this single service he is entitled to a grateful remembrance so long as any value is attached to the union of the States.

The next of this class, in point of general interest, is the article upon Curtis's *Admiralty Digest*, published in the *American Jurist*, little known, probably, except to lawyers; yet I could not point to any work which contains, within the same compass, more matter of permanent interest to every reader of American history, and which throws more light upon the foreign policy of our government from the time of Washington's declaration of neutrality, in 1793, to the declaration of war, in 1812, under President Madison.

Another dissertation, published in the *Jurist*, entitled "Remarks on the Study of the Civil Law," is highly useful to the classical scholar, and, indeed, to every educated gentleman, though designed more especially for civilians and lawyers. Early impressed with the importance of this study, Mr. Pickering wished to draw the attention of the bar to it as among the most effectual means of raising the dignity and usefulness of the profession. He regarded

the civil law as a wonderful repository of human reason, the source of a large portion of our common law, and the basis of that international code which governs us and all the nations that constitute the great community of Europe. At the close, he expresses a strong desire to see this branch of jurisprudence take its proper rank in our law schools, as well as among our practitioners at the bar. Alluding to an illustrious example of professional liberality in the donation made by our late learned countryman, Dr. Dane, to the University of Cambridge, for the advancement of *American* law, he adds:—“We earnestly hope that some benefactor of equal liberality will soon be found who will devote a portion of the well-earned fruits of an honorable life to a chair for the civil law in that ever cherished institution.”

As akin to this subject, we may glance at the article, written by Mr. Pickering for the *Encyclopædia Americana*, on the “Agrarian Laws of Rome”; a correct view of which laws he considered indispensable to general readers, as well as lawyers, who would have just notions of the Roman history and constitution. Contrary to the general impression, that those laws were always a direct infringement of the rights of private property, he shows that the original object of them was the distribution of the public lands, and not those of private citizens, though they might sometimes violate private rights; as certain laws of our State legislature, agrarian in principle, made for

the relief of illegal settlers on Eastern lands, violated the rights of proprietors of those lands.

The "Lecture on the alleged Uncertainty of the Law," delivered by Mr. Pickering before the Boston Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, is an excellent production. Instead of seeking for his auditors an hour's diversion by indulging their love of pleasantry at the law's expense, he aims at what is true and useful, and affords both entertainment and instruction. His object was, to promote a just respect for the science of the law by securing for it a proper confidence. The science itself is as certain as the sciences in general; but when we come to apply it to the innumerable objects to be regulated by it, then the same uncertainty takes place, which is experienced in the other sciences, not excepting the mathematics. The various learning and striking illustrations with which this beautiful lecture abounds place it among his most valuable writings.

The article written for the *North American Review*, entitled "Egyptian Jurisprudence," is as characteristic as it is curious. No other American scholar, we think, would have attempted it. For several years, he observes, the learned world had been in possession of some original and very ancient legal documents from Egypt; yet, though they had not escaped the notice of jurists on the continent of Europe, he had not seen any allusion to them in the juridical journals, either of Great Britain or of this

country. One of these extraordinary documents is an Egyptian deed of a piece of land in the city of Thebes, written on the papyrus of that country, more than a century before the Christian era, with the impression of a seal, or stamp, attached to it, and a certificate of registry on its margin, in as regular a manner, Mr. Pickering adds, as the keeper of the registry in the county of Suffolk would certify to a deed of land in the city of Boston at this day. Of this curious document, written in Greek, as was common while Egypt was under the Greek dynasty, a learned and ingenious explanation, together with a *fac-simile* of it, is given by Mr. Pickering. The whole article is exceedingly interesting, and affords a beautiful specimen, not only of his rare learning, but of his philosophical taste and skill in the application of his learning.

Such are the chief, though not all, of Mr. Pickering's writings which have a professional bearing. In the *second* class we include those which partake of a legislative character.

As a member of the legislature of Massachusetts, Mr. Pickering rendered important public services, and made himself conspicuous among the eminent men of the Commonwealth. His elaborate "Report on the Subject of Impressed Seamen, with the Evidence and Documents accompanying it," made to the legislature of 1812, the first year of the late war with England, is a durable monument of his patriotism,

as well as of his ability and learning. We cannot justly appreciate this undertaking, without looking back to his position, in the midst of that dreadful war, — most dreadful to all reflecting men, who saw and felt that it bound us to fight the battles of Bonaparte against the civilized world. When this overwhelming conqueror was on his triumphant march against Russia, our government, at the very moment which seemed to suit his views, declared war against England, the only remaining barrier in his way to universal dominion. The power of the elements over him could not be foreseen. The repeal of the British orders in council, the chief alleged cause of the war, having taken place before its declaration, though not known here till afterwards, left the impressment of American seamen, or rather the claim of a right to take British subjects from the merchant-ships of the United States, the only remaining pretext for prosecuting the war. In relation to this subject, great errors had crept into the public documents, and great delusion existed in the public mind. Mr. Pickering thought that he could in no way render a greater service to his country than by correcting those errors and dissipating that delusion. For this purpose, he introduced, in the House of Representatives, an order “to ascertain the number of the seamen of this Commonwealth impressed or taken by any foreign nation.” On him, as chairman of the committee thereupon appointed, chiefly devolved the labor and

responsibility of the undertaking. It is sufficient to add, that it was accomplished in a manner alike honorable to himself and satisfactory to the legislature. A great mass of evidence was reported, comprised in more than fifty depositions, taken from the principal merchants and shipmasters of Massachusetts, together with a just account of the previous practice of our government in relation to impressments, and a clear exposition of national law on the subject, all showing conclusively that the further prosecution of the war was as unnecessary as it was disastrous.

We cannot follow Mr. Pickering through his important legislative labors. It must suffice to observe, that on great occasions, or on subjects involving great principles or momentous consequences, his learning and his pen were always in demand, and never withheld. The contemplated separation of Maine from Massachusetts, when he was a Senator from Essex, in 1816, was such an occasion, and he reported the first bill for this purpose, "drawn," says the historian of Maine, "with great ability and skill."* In 1817, he was appointed, together with the late Judge Dawes and late Dr. Dane, "to revise the laws relating to the Courts of Probate, and the settlement of the estates of deceased persons, in one general bill, with such alterations and amendments as were necessary." This great and protracted labor was cheerfully assumed by Mr. Pickering, though the youngest member

* 9 Law Reporter, 52.

of the committee, and was accomplished by him with his usual ability and success. Whether the younger or the older in any working committee or body, he was as sure to have the work to do, as others were that he was the best qualified to do it. A similar and yet more extensive service was devolved upon him, on the death of Professor Ashmun, in the revision of the whole body of statutes, in connection with those eminent jurists, Judge Jackson and the late Professor Stearns. The portion of the work which Mr. Pickering undertook was a revision of the statutes relating to the "internal administration of the government," divided into fourteen distinct titles, and subdivided into fifty-eight chapters, some of which contain over two hundred sections. When it is added, that to these chapters was subjoined a great mass of explanatory notes, we may form some judgment of the extent and importance of his labors in this arduous undertaking. He accomplished it in a manner that entitled him to the lasting gratitude of the Commonwealth.

While he was a member of the Senate from the county of Suffolk, in 1829, he took a leading part in the discussion upon the bill respecting manufacturing corporations, which, being based upon principles of justice and sound policy touching the individual liability of stockholders, engaged his strenuous and persevering support. His able speech on that occasion was published, and it affords ample evidence of his thorough knowledge of the subject, and his large and just views of public policy.

In this connection we would observe, that Mr. Pickering was often engaged as counsel before committees of the legislature in important cases. These were interesting to him in proportion as they led him into the investigation and enforcement of great principles of public justice. He never, perhaps, spoke with more signal ability and effect than on the question of a second bridge between Boston and Charlestown, — a question which involved principles and consequences of momentous concern to the people of Massachusetts. His speech was a powerful support of private rights and the public faith, and was alike honorable to his head and his heart.

With this very imperfect notice of Mr. Pickering's civil and legislative services, we pass to the *third* class, including those miscellaneous labors and writings given by him in private and social life. His lively interest in all public improvements, scientific discoveries, and literary undertakings, with his various ability, prompt pen, and ever obliging disposition, pointed him out as the man to be called upon for any sort of intellectual work, needed by societies or individuals. Was any report, memorial, or other document required on any occasion, or was any project to be commended by an exposition of its merits, his judgment and his pen were put in requisition for the purpose. So, too, if any young author had a manuscript eager, but unfit, for the press, he might be relied on to give it form and comeliness, and to usher it into the world with a preface or

introduction. In such cases he was ever content to remain unknown, and to leave the whole literary credit where it was most desired. It would be difficult to say which was the greater, his modesty or his generosity. In some of these various professional and benevolent efforts, he found a most cordial helper in a cherished and admiring friend, whose genius and learning were as practical as his feelings were generous and Christian, — I mean our late eloquent associate, that warm-hearted and noble-minded gentleman, Leverett Saltonstall, — whose delightful image mingles sweetly with the memory of the friend whom he so honored and loved.

These miscellaneous claims upon Mr. Pickering's attention rather increased than diminished upon his removal to Boston. His professional robe could not conceal him from the eye of science, or from the calls of benevolence. Almost immediately his pen was engaged, at the organization of the Boston Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, in drafting its constitution, writing its first annual report, and commending its objects to the public regard. He was also its first vice-president, Daniel Webster being at its head. Among the latest of these disinterested services was the learned report which he made as chairman of a committee of Boston gentlemen, recommending the purchase and introduction into the country of a telescope of the first class, and illustrating the progress and the importance of astronomical science. These are but instances. His familiar acquaintance with

European languages attracted many foreign gentlemen, whose society was so highly valued by him, that he could not fail to give to it much of his time. American scholars, too, always found him ready to listen, and bountiful both of his time and knowledge. The young student was encouraged to repeat his visits by the manifest delight which Mr. Pickering always took in imparting useful information. Annoying applications for his patronage in matters of a dubious character were, perhaps, unavoidable, and these would sometimes be intruded upon hours which should have been sacred to his repose and recreation.*

We now pass to the *fourth* class, comprehending Mr. Pickering's writings and labors in the cause of ancient learning. We have seen his constant devotion to the Greek and Roman classics. The Hebrew and other Oriental languages also engaged his profound attention. A competent knowledge of the original languages of the Bible he considered indispensable to the theologian. He says, too, of the Hebrew, speaking of Harvard College, that, "with a view to general philology, the student's labors will find as rich a reward in the study of this ancient and curiously formed language, as in any one dialect of the tongues spoken by man." And he wished to see more attention paid to this study in all our colleges.† It was his earnest desire through life, to diffuse the love, promote the study, and raise the standard of classical learning in

* Note D.

† Note E.

our country. We can here take only a brief notice of his principal efforts for the promotion of Greek literature.

Mr. Pickering, while he was in Europe, wrote to a member of the college government at Cambridge, proposing, among other improvements, "the adoption of uniformity in grammars and other elementary books at the University." This, whether from his suggestion or not, was soon after carried into execution by the selection of Adam's *Latin Grammar* and the *Gloucester Greek Grammar* to be used in Harvard College. Connected with this subject is the excellent little work, written by Mr. Pickering in 1825, which bears the unpretending title of *Remarks on Greek Grammars*, yet abounds in various information, as interesting as it is learned. The views it presents of the importance of a steady uniformity of elementary books of instruction, and of resisting the spirit of perpetual change in these "instruments of learning," deserve the respectful attention of all our collegiate institutions.

The just tribute which is paid by Mr. Pickering to that "sound Greek scholar," the late President Willard, and to the Emeritus Professor of Greek Literature at Cambridge, whom he ranks among "the most profound scholars of the country,"* will long be enjoyed by those who love to remember solid and genuine excellence. The glowing commendation of English literature at the close of these *Remarks* is one of the most

* Rev. Dr. Popkin.

eloquent passages of Mr. Pickering's or any other literary discussions.

The translation of Professor Wytttenbach's *Observations on the Importance of Greek Literature and the best Method of studying the Classics*, by Mr. Pickering, was first published in the *North American Review*, for 1819; and was afterwards republished, with an appropriate preface by the translator, and the addition of "an exemplification of the author's method of explaining the classics to his pupils." This was printed at the expense of that kind-hearted patron of letters and zealous agent in founding the Boston Athenæum, the late William S. Shaw, who deserves a grateful remembrance in this metropolis. Professor Wytttenbach, who was regarded in England as the best Continental scholar of Europe, and who, for a great part of his life, had been a practical instructor, was worthy of the attention bestowed upon him by Mr. Pickering. The results of such a scholar's experience and erudition could not fail to be a valuable guide to those who are engaged in "the arduous but honorable office of instructing our youth in classical learning." We think, too, that his noble example as a self-teacher is worth almost every thing else. His own account of the exertions and progress he made in studying the Greek authors is exceedingly interesting; to which he adds, — "Now, my intelligent pupils, why should not you be able, with the assistance of an instructor, to accomplish as much as I did without one, and by my own

industry alone ? ” We cannot forbear to repeat here, as strikingly applicable to Mr. Pickering’s own style and writings, what Professor Wytttenbach observes of the “perfection of Xenophon’s style, — which,” he says, “has a healthy soundness, an ease, simplicity, and grace, which give it the preference above all others for the introductory studies of boys; whose fresh and youthful minds will there imbibe nothing but the wholesome aliment of the purest of fountains.”

In the course of his classical reading in England, Mr. Pickering paid a thorough attention to the pronunciation of Greek, and went over the whole controversy about the reform introduced by Erasmus, as contained in Havercamp’s *Sylloge*, and came to the conclusion that Erasmus was right. But a personal acquaintance with several natives of Greece, who arrived here in 1814, led him to a revision and change of his opinion. The result of his investigations on the subject is given in the memoir which he communicated to the American Academy in 1818, and which attracted the marked attention of scholars in Europe; and though it was at first opposed by a distinguished professor of this country, it afterwards received his sanction. It, indeed, bears full evidence of Mr. Pickering’s candor and patient research, and is a beautiful specimen, not only of his extraordinary learning, but of his judgment, taste, ingenuity, and acuteness.*

But Mr. Pickering’s great work, his Herculean labor

* Note F.

in the cause of classical learning, was his Greek and English Lexicon. How he could have had the courage and resolution to undertake such a work, in the midst of professional toils, is inconceivable without a knowledge of the man. In truth, he thought infinitely less of his own ease than of good to his fellow-men. "A strong conviction," as expressed by himself, "that it would be rendering an essential service to the interests of sound literature in our country, to promote the study of the language of Greece, whose authors will be models in writing as long as her sculptors and architects shall be models in the fine arts," sustained him through all the difficulties of this bold undertaking. He was early convinced of the importance of a Greek lexicon with an English instead of a Latin interpretation, and seeing no prospect of such a work in England, he entered upon the execution of his contemplated plan in 1814. After proceeding alone through about one sixth part of the whole work, he associated with himself the late Dr. Daniel Oliver, whose character both as a scholar and a man rendered him worthy of such a connection. The prospectus was issued in 1820, and the first edition appeared in 1826; the rapid sale of which made it necessary to prepare a second edition much sooner than had been expected. Mr. Pickering, having become sole proprietor of the work, was alone responsible for the second edition, published in 1829, enlarged by the addition of "more than ten thousand *entire* articles and

very numerous parts of articles," and greatly improved throughout. The next year it was reprinted, with additions, at Edinburgh, and recommended to public notice as a "very useful and popular work." In the advertisement to the third edition, this is particularly alluded to, "in order to prevent any misconception or suspicion of plagiarism on the part of the American editor." The preparation of the work for this "new and extensively revised edition, adapted to the more advanced state of Greek studies," was among Mr. Pickering's last labors, and will serve to brighten his highest classical honors. Of his brilliant success in this laborious undertaking my own judgment is of little worth. I give you that of others. An eminent and experienced teacher of classical learning has publicly declared, that "this legacy to American scholars is worthy of the distinguished author," — and that, "after groping amid the vagueness and confusion of Donnegan, it is truly a relief to turn to the order, clearness, and precision of Pickering." A learned professor of the highest authority, himself the author of a Greek and English lexicon of the New Testament, has pronounced "the lexicon of Mr. Pickering, in its present shape, to be the best extant for the use of colleges and schools in the United States, — for which, indeed, it has been specially prepared." A third eminent Greek scholar has told the world, that what Mr. Pickering undertook to do in this great work "has been admirably done." *

* Note G.

With this brief and very imperfect notice of Mr. Pickering's classical achievements, we proceed to the *fifth* class, comprising his publications and labors relating to the English language and literature. We shall attempt little more than to invite attention to their great variety and value. He spread the fruits of his various erudition over the country with unstinted liberality, thinking only of enriching others and paying the debt which every scholar owes to humanity and learning. The *Monthly Anthology*, the *North American*, the *New York*, the *American Quarterly Reviews*, and the *Annals of Education*, with other periodicals, as well as the daily journals, were honored by the productions of his pen, — productions which, however occasional in their purpose or origin, possess that intrinsic merit which gives them a permanent interest, and entitles them to preservation in some durable form. We trust that in due time they will be gathered up and presented to the world in a manner, and with a biography, worthy of the author.

In all Mr. Pickering's zeal for ancient literature, he never lost sight of his native tongue. He loved the Greek authors ardently for their incomparable excellence, but he valued them the more highly as being the best models of writing to the English scholar. The purity and improvement of the English language in America engaged his early attention. During his residence in England, he began the practice of noting *Americanisms* and expressions of doubtful authority,

and as he continued the practice after his return, the collection so swelled under his hands, that he was induced to prepare them for publication, and, in 1815, completed the *Vocabulary*, which formed the first of his learned communications to the American Academy. He afterwards republished it, with additions, for general use; and though he regarded it but as a beginning, yet it was a work of long and patient labor, for which he deserves the gratitude of every American scholar. The work attracted attention even in Germany, where portions of it were translated and published. With its preface and introductory essay, it has served to guard the purity of our language and literature.*

Mr. Pickering had the same general design in his elaborate and learned article on Johnson's English Dictionary, first published in the *American Quarterly Review*, for September, 1828, and justly considered as one of his most interesting and useful publications. Johnson and Walker were regarded by him as holding the first rank in their respective departments in England, and he thought them, of course, entitled to be received as standard authorities by the lexicographers and orthoepists of America.

His excellent article on "Elementary Instruction," published in the *North American Review*, deserves particular notice as being richly imbued with his

* Note H.

classical and philosophical spirit, and as containing hints and views important to all who are concerned in the work of education, from the teacher of the alphabet up to the head of a college.

The "Lecture on Telegraphic Language," which he delivered before the Boston Marine Society, of which he was an honorary member, is another beautiful specimen of the familiar and pleasing application of his various learning to the useful purposes of life.

Mr. Pickering's eulogy on our great mathematician, the American La Place, in which he so happily traced the loftiest efforts of philosophical genius, was alike worthy of his subject and of himself, and it will ever rank among the richest treasures of the Academy whose Memoirs it adorns.

But we must hasten to the *sixth* class, which includes Mr. Pickering's studies and labors upon the languages of the American Indians. His more particular attention appears to have been drawn to this subject in 1819, by the publication of Mr. Du Ponceau's Report to the American Philosophical Society, and correspondence with Mr. Heckewelder upon the Indian languages of North America. The extraordinary facts disclosed by this publication kindled Mr. Pickering's enthusiasm. Though deeply engaged upon his Greek Lexicon, he could not resist the attractions of this new field of labor, so suited to his genius and taste, and in which he might hope to render such important service to science and learning.

He stopped not to inquire how profitable the employment might be to himself; it was enough to feel assured that he could labor successfully in extending the boundaries of human knowledge and advancing the improvement of mankind. He immediately wrote for the *North American Review* an able article upon Mr. Du Ponceau's admirable Report, recommending it in the strongest terms to the attention of the learned. In this article he expressed the hope that "the Dictionary of the dialect of the Norridgewock Indians, composed by Father Rasles," would soon be published; and he also suggested "the necessity of establishing, by common consent of the learned, a uniform orthography of the *spoken* languages" of the aborigines of America; both of which laborious undertakings were left for him to accomplish. In 1820 he published in the same Review another ingenious and learned article upon Dr. Jarvis's *Discourse on the Religion of the Indian Tribes of North America*; which attracted the particular attention of Baron William Von Humboldt, of Berlin, who thereupon opened an interesting correspondence with Mr. Pickering on the Indian languages, which continued without interruption till the Baron's death, when Mr. Pickering's portion of the correspondence was deposited in the library of the Royal Academy of Berlin.*

Among the most arduous of Mr. Pickering's incessant labors in this new field of science, and also the

* Note I.

least attractive, except from a view of their utility, was the republication of Eliot's *Indian Grammar*, and Edwards's *Observations on the Mohegan Language*, with introductions and notes. He used to speak of the former as a German labor, and so, too, it was regarded by his friend, Mr. Du Ponceau, who thanked him for the great service he had thereby rendered to the cause of learning. Various other ancient works, relating to the Indian languages, were brought into new light by Mr. Pickering's unwearied care. He prepared Roger Williams's *Vocabulary of the Narraganset Indians* for the Rhode Island Historical Society, and Cotton's *Vocabulary of the Massachusetts Indians*, for the Historical Society of this State. But the greatest work of this description which he undertook was the publication of Father Rasles's Dictionary, already mentioned, of the Norridgewock, or Abnaki, language, with an introductory memoir and notes, — a work which called forth expressions of admiration from those of the learned, both here and in Europe, who could best appreciate the severe toil it must have cost him.

The elaborate article which Mr. Pickering prepared for the *Encyclopædia Americana*, on the Indian languages of North America, is as scientific as it is comprehensive, and exhibits the extent of his researches and the depth of his learning on this copious subject. It was translated into German and published at Leipsic with marks of distinguished honor.

The able and spirited articles published by him in the *New York Review*, in 1826, in reply to an article in the *North American Review*, which had unjustly assailed the philological reputation of two of his most distinguished friends, and traduced the character of the Indians as well as misrepresented their dialects, shows with what vigor he could wield the pen of a Junius, when truth and justice demanded the effort, while it manifests his profound and familiar knowledge of the whole subject.

The preparation of a scheme for reducing *spoken* languages to written forms, contained in his "Essay on a Uniform Orthography for the Indian Languages of North America," communicated to the American Academy in 1820, was, perhaps, of all his labors, the most characteristic of his philological and philosophical genius and skill, and, in its practical consequences, of the highest interest and value. While it facilitates, in a simple and beautiful manner, the formation of written languages and the study of comparative philology, it affords an instrument of incalculable advantage in civilizing and Christianizing the barbarous nations of the earth. It has already been sufficiently tested in Africa, and especially in some of the South Sea islands, as well as among the North American Indians, to rank its author among the distinguished benefactors of mankind.*

In Mr. Pickering's learned article on Adelung's

* Note K.

Survey of all the Known Languages and their Dialects, published in the *North American Review*, in 1822, he represents the present age as the epoch of a new science, — “the comparative science of languages,” which is to be studied, “as we study other parts of human knowledge, by collecting facts, — by ascertaining what languages there are on the globe, and collecting vocabularies, or specimens of them all.” According to his estimate of the number of dialects on the globe, they amount to about four thousand. Into this ocean of languages he plunged too deep for me to follow him. I lose sight of him entirely. I cannot fathom his research or enumerate his acquisitions.

We are now brought to the *seventh* class of Mr. Pickering’s literary labors, embracing those which relate to comparative philology and ethnography, and, as connected therewith, the Oriental languages, including those of Africa, Asia, and the vast extent of islands in the Pacific. Here a field was opened to him wide enough for the employment of all his strength and all his time, could he have devoted himself to it. He gave himself to it, as far as he could, with untiring zeal. He hunted for specimens of unwritten dialects, with as much ardor as Audubon hunted for those of unknown birds; and he could give them forms as distinct, if not as beautiful. He had always, indeed, been watchful of opportunities to collect materials for his philological investigations. Hear-

ing, once, of a stranger in Salem who had been among the Yaloffs in Africa, he sought and obtained from him facts and information which enabled him to study the interesting language of that people. Shipmasters, and even common sailors, who had visited strange lands, might be sure, not only of a welcome, but of assistance from him, if they had any facts or knowledge to communicate, illustrative of the inhabitants or their dialects. The publication of Holden's "Narrative" of his captivity and sufferings on Lord North's Island affords an interesting example of such assistance. When the United States Exploring Expedition was in contemplation, Mr. Pickering exerted all his influence to draw the attention of the government, and those more immediately concerned in the undertaking, to "the various native languages of the different tribes of people that might be visited by the expedition." He reminded them of the noble example of the late empress of Russia, and endeavoured to stimulate their curiosity and interest by illustrating the real importance of "this department of knowledge," and by considerations of what was due to the scientific reputation of our country. His correspondence with J. N. Reynolds, Esq., in 1836, on this subject, presented his own enlightened views so clearly, that, if they were duly regarded, we cannot doubt, from the high reputation of the young philologist who accompanied the expedition,* that results have been

* Horatio Hale, Esq.

attained important to the world and honorable to America.

The hieroglyphics of Egypt and the dialects of the South Sea islands appear to have excited Mr. Pickering's literary enthusiasm in the highest degree. These were fascinating topics, which he was never weary of investigating or discussing. The Chinese language was scarcely less interesting to him. The new views of this language, presented to the world by his friend Mr. Du Ponceau, called forth an able and very learned article from his pen for the *North American Review*, in 1839, which was seized upon, as other of his works had been, as a prize to British literature; and well might British writers be proud of such a prize.* The sister language of Cochin-China (the history of the first American voyage to which country was given to the public through his means) was illustrated by him in another able article, published in 1841, in the same Review. Both articles exhibit, in a striking manner, his familiarity with the profoundest philological speculations.

But I need only point your attention to the eloquent address delivered by him before the American Oriental Society, at their anniversary meeting in 1843, — a society of which he was the soul as well as the head, — to show you the compass, variety, and depth of his philological erudition, and the vast extent of his views and plans for making his erudition useful

* Note L.

to the world. The leading objects of this society are "the cultivation of learning in the Asiatic, African, and Polynesian languages," and "the publication of memoirs, translations, vocabularies, and other works relative to these languages." Mr. Pickering's *Memoir on the Language and Inhabitants of Lord North's Island*, presented to the American Academy during the last year of his life, — a memoir as touchingly interesting as it is beautifully written, — affords ample evidence of the noble manner in which, had his life been spared, he would have performed his part in this great literary enterprise.

But I must forbear. To do justice to Mr. Pickering's learned labors would require abundant time, with a genius and a pen kindred to his own. In the cursory view we have taken of them, many of his valuable writings have been wholly overlooked; some of which demand at least a respectful allusion. Of his article, in the *New York Review*, upon the elegant *History of Ferdinand and Isabella*, it is sufficient praise to say that it is worthy of its subject. The comprehensive *Introductory Essay* to Newhall's *Letters on Junius* gives us, in a more concise and pleasing manner than is elsewhere to be found, the history and literature pertaining to the Junius controversy. His biographical sketches of Bowditch, Spurzheim, Du Ponceau, and Peirce, published in the daily journals, are marked by the various excel-

lence of his just, delicate, discriminating pen.* The mention of the last-named friend reminds us of the estimable *History of Harvard University*, which was left unfinished at the lamented author's death, and completed for publication by Mr. Pickering; whose own article on the subject, in the *North American Review*, contains one of the most graphic as well as most just views which have ever appeared of Harvard College.

We must add as a supplementary or *eighth* class of Mr. Pickering's works, his numerous and important letters, addressed to various learned men in this country and in Europe. "For many years," says a well-informed friend, "he maintained a copious correspondence on matters of jurisprudence, science, and learning, with distinguished names at home and abroad; especially with Mr. Du Ponceau, at Philadelphia; with William Von Humboldt, at Berlin; with Mittermaier, the jurist, at Heidelberg; with Dr. Pritchard, author of the *Physical History of Mankind*, at Bristol; and with Lepsius, the hierologist, who wrote to him from the Pyramids in Egypt."†

All Mr. Pickering's writings are stamped with the excellence of his clear, simple, graceful style, — a style unsurpassed by that of any English author on similar subjects. With proper words in proper places, and bearing the polish of refined taste, it yet flows

* Note M.

† 9 Law Reporter, 66.

as naturally as if no thought or labor were bestowed upon it. Almost any one might hope to write in the same manner.

“Sudet multum, frustra que laboret

Ausus idem.”

The most essential purpose of language is always attained by Mr. Pickering's diction. We see, at once, the ideas he would express, as distinctly as we behold material objects in a clear sky. Nor was his style incapable of rising to an impassioned tone of eloquence, as we have seen on one occasion, at least, when he felt called upon to administer a suitable rebuke to philological presumption. His indignation, if roused, could flash its scorching fires, gentle and benignant as was his whole nature.

But Mr. Pickering's strongest claims upon our admiration and gratitude arise from the exalted spirit and principles which actuated him in all his works. No selfish ends or views ever appear; nothing to set off his powers, or to gain notoriety; while all his important writings are imbued with his rare learning and philanthropy, and conspire to establish his fame. He spoke from his inmost heart, when he reminded his brethren of the Oriental Society, in the elegant address just now referred to, that “to be beneficial to our fellow-men” is “the great end of all our intellectual labors.” He spoke, too, from his own deep experience, when he declared, that “steady, unremitting labor on subjects of the intellect, like untiring

labor of the body upon physical objects, will overcome all obstacles." We see his own high aims in the "incentives" which, at the close of the same address, he so eloquently urged upon his literary associates, — "the love of learning for its own sake, — the reputation of our beloved country, to whom we owe so much, and whom we are all ambitious of elevating to the same height to which other nations have attained by the cultivation of learning." Such was the lofty character of his literature throughout his long career of laborious study.

Mr. Pickering enjoyed excellent health till some time in the summer of 1845, when he experienced the first symptoms of a fatal disease. Under the severe pressure of increasing illness, he pursued his studies, and attended to his various active duties, while he had any bodily strength. His mind continued clear and firm, and he manifested, during all his protracted illness, that patience, gentleness, and Christian resignation, which perfected the example of his life. He died on the fifth day of May, 1846, leaving a widow, an only daughter, and two sons, to mourn their irreparable loss.*

All of you, Gentlemen, had the happiness to know Mr. Pickering in his social as well as literary character, and need not that I should speak to you of his

* Mrs. Pickering soon followed her lamented husband. She died on the 14th of December, 1846.

kind and courteous manners, his sweet temper and disposition, his benevolent virtues, the richness of his conversation, and the delight which his society afforded. He was, as you well know, a man universally respected, — who never lost a friend, and never had an enemy; whom once to know was always to love and esteem.

In domestic life, he was all that could be wished; and, I may add, all that could be imagined in amiable affections. Wisdom and love were delightfully blended in his whole deportment.

Brilliant as is the reputation of the scholar and the author, we lose sight of it in the superior excellence of the man. He was, indeed, a true man. His sensibilities were tender, his whole organization delicate and susceptible, yet always sound and healthy, with nothing of a morbid tendency to unfit him for the active duties of life. Mild and gentle, he yet felt keenly and quickly; and with all his patient forbearance, he was not wanting in spirit and energy to assert his rights. He had a true enthusiasm, without any extravagance. His ardent love of freedom and justice, and his abhorrence of tyranny, in all its forms, never partook of fanaticism. With much reserve in expressing his religious feelings, he was profoundly conscientious, and lived in the fear and the love of God.

Truly of him we may say, with Nature's great poet, —

“ His life was gentle, and the elements
 So mixed in him, that Nature might stand up,
 And say to all the world, *This was a man.*”

Christianity, too, might rise up and set her seal of greatness upon him. The fundamental law of Christian greatness he nobly fulfilled. He was, in the highest sense, “the servant of all,” — a true philanthropist, the benefactor of his race. His profoundest erudition and his severest toil were ever subservient to the good of mankind. Usefulness was his glory.

Limited as our view of Mr. Pickering's life has necessarily been, we have not failed to see the wide extent of his active and beneficent influence. Our laws as well as literature bear the impress of his luminous mind. Education acknowledges him as one of her most efficient friends. We have seen him the teacher of teachers, the improver of authors, the enlightener of colleges, the pioneer of civilization, affording a guiding light to all engaged in the acquisition or diffusion of knowledge, from the humblest pupil to the profoundest inquirer, from the classical instructor at home to the herald of Christianity in heathen lands.

Some men's learning is kept, as a standing pool, for their own undisturbed gaze. Mr. Pickering's was a living fountain, gushing out in every direction, fertilizing the country around. Others there are, who think only of rearing from their learning a monument to themselves, caring little for the world. Mr. Pick-

ering thought little of himself, but every thing of the world. So, too, in the use of wealth, some are intent only on its accumulation, as if its value consisted in its bulk, and the distinction thereby produced. Not so the "man of Ross." He spread his wealth wherever he could make it most productive of common blessings. Mr. Pickering was the man of Ross in learning, — scattering his intellectual treasures everywhere, as they were needed to bless his fellow-men.

"The admirable Pickering!" is already the exclamation of fervent gratitude.* Admirable indeed; — not for wonderful talents perverted, or for dazzling, delusive genius; but for fine powers finely improved, and for noble qualities nobly applied. Admirable for his prodigious industry and learning, and for his sterling integrity and goodness. Admirable as a scholar, as a jurist, as a philologist, as an explorer of truth, as a guide to wisdom and learning, and as a bright exemplar of virtue.

Such an illustrious benefactor inspires the gratitude of all enlightened men. Throughout this western continent, wherever literature and science have their votaries, his memory is cherished. That distinguished American writer, now in France, who has passed his life in reflecting the light of letters from one continent to the other, repeats to us, with his own exalt-

* Note N.

ed admiration, the voice of sympathy and of eulogy from the literati of Europe.*

The memory of JOHN PICKERING will live throughout the learned world. So long as human language exists and is cultivated, his name will be honored. If he sought not fame, he has found it the more surely, and in a higher degree. His precious reputation rests on ground as solid as his ambition was pure. It will extend with the benign influences of his learning, and it will brighten as it extends.

When will the people at large learn to appreciate their true friends, their real benefactors? The military or political idol of a day kindles their enthusiasm like a blazing meteor, which glares for a moment and is extinguished for ever. Their literary admiration blindly follows brilliant genius, however unsanctified by virtue, and which continues its baleful glare, like the *ignis fatuus*, to mislead and destroy. We would point them to a luminary of the heavens, whose clear light irradiates the path of human duty and human improvement, and guides surely and always to knowledge, virtue, religion, and happiness.

* Mr. Walsh.

NOTES AND ADDITIONS.

THE following passages are from a letter addressed to me by a classmate and intimate friend of Mr. Pickering.

“A love of knowledge characterized Mr. Pickering from youth to old age. Whatever was the subject of his attention, he acquired definite conceptions of it, and these he fixed in his memory. His memory was exceedingly retentive; partly owing, no doubt, to the diligent cultivation of it. If to this love of knowledge and strong memory you add his uncommon diligence, you get the principal explanation of his extraordinary acquisitions. It is, however, to be added, that his mind was of a truly philosophical or scientific cast. He always referred phenomena to principles, so far as he could; considering how far they went in support or in contradiction of principles commonly maintained. His views of every subject were comprehensive. When a partial discussion had led to a conclusion satisfactory to common minds, he would bring forward the considerations which had been overlooked, and thus prevent a too hasty or too confident decision. I can remember this trait of his character from the time when we were in college.

“Mr. Pickering was pure in heart. Few men, if any, have I known as much so. He seemed to have no affinity for evil thoughts, desires, and purposes. They found no harbour in his breast. He had, as I believe, a true and sincere, though unostentatious, piety. He certainly loved man, whom he had seen. He

was truly benevolent. To children he showed a tender care and kindness. He was peculiarly liberal to all, and especially to the young, who were seeking to get knowledge. And let it be noted, that this is much more than for the rich man to be liberal in the use of his wealth. Such a one merits great praise, surely; yet he gives what he cannot use for himself. The man of learning does not, indeed, seem to deprive himself of any thing, in helping the student. His own knowledge is not lessened in doing it. But he cannot impart it without giving his time; and this, like his heart's blood. Mr. Pickering would patiently attend to the young student, leaving even his business to do so; and then deprive himself of his sleep at night to finish his business.

"The conversation of such a man must be full of instruction. It was most agreeably so. I think I may say, that, for fifty years past, I have never spent half an hour with Mr. Pickering in which I did not get some interesting or useful information, such as few men could give me.

"In his manners there was a peculiar polish, improved, undoubtedly, by his intercourse with cultivated people abroad. His manners were so simple, as not to arrest attention at first; but so refined and finished, as to bear the closest scrutiny, and to fit him for the most elegant society. He manifested in them the nicest discrimination as to persons. Their foundation was in his good heart and in his respect for the pleasure as well as for the rights of others."

The following is a brief extract from a letter addressed to me by a learned scholar and divine, alluded to in the discourse, who was intimately associated with Mr. Pickering in the American Oriental Society.

"It gave me a great, although a melancholy pleasure, when we last met, that you should request me to recall and write to

you my recollections of the late Dr. Pickering. I think it was my particular senior, the late Dr. Joseph McKean, who introduced me to our departed friend, then in the class, as you know, next above us. And this must have been between fifty-two and fifty-three years ago. But from that period I ever entertained toward him the most respectful esteem and regard, and have shared the privilege of his friendship,—a virtuous friendship, productive, from its commencement, of literary and moral benefits. His acquaintance was, to use the phrase of Waller the poet, ‘a liberal education.’

“ You well remember his gentlemanly deportment in college. You recollect, too, his high and just reputation in the various branches of mathematical science,—a reputation fairly and laboriously earned. But he deserves remembrance at Harvard, also, for being most efficiently engaged in the resuscitation of classical literature. That was at a very low ebb, you know, in the early part of our time there.

“ With respect to the extent of his linguistic acquirements, about which you wished me to inform you, I really am not able to give any satisfactory account. I think, however, I can recollect as many as sixteen languages of which we have occasionally conversed, at least. Of late years, the Chinese, in two or three of its dialects, had engaged my lamented friend’s attention; and he gave some labor to the Cochin-Chinese; and paid great attention to the progress of discovery in regard to the Egyptian hieroglyphics. The adaptation of his system of expression of sounds by our own alphabet (of which he published a Memoir in the Transactions of the American Academy) excited no small interest. Our missionaries adopted his views in reducing to writing that dialect or derivative of the Malay which is spoken in the Sandwich Islands, having effected the translation into it of the whole Bible. This single thing is highly honorary to our country; and I have wondered that so little has been said respecting it by literary men among us. It must also have a considerable effect.

For, as the languages of the Pacific are mostly of Malay origin, it can hardly be predicted to how great an extent the influence of it may reach.

“ In regard to ethnology, his attention was drawn to it almost necessarily by the rapid progress made of late years in that branch of information. Indeed, living as he had done in the midst of your Salem merchants and intelligent navigators, — situated as he was, in connection, on the one hand, with the Academy, and presiding in its researches, the results of which became familiar to him, — and on the other, no inattentive observer of the progress of missionary enterprise, in which his own labors, as regards *the philosophy of language*, were brought so often into practical operation, — ethnology became, of necessity almost, a subject of indispensable attention. It was so to me; and it was, therefore, of course, most frequently the theme of our conversations, when we could pass together any portion of our much occupied time. More especially has this been the case in the formation and progress of our American Oriental Society, — an institution happily effected by his consent to become its President, and giving it his valuable labors, influence, and reputation. How it can live and flourish without him remains still to be seen, although, as I hope, his example will have given an impulse, the effect of which may continue.

“ One thing should be remembered in respect to classical literature in connection with the late Dr. Pickering. It is this; — his attachment to that literature had a practical object. He did not become a critical scholar for the purpose of vaunting his accuracy in taste, acuteness, or memory. He was ardently and patriotically desirous of raising the scholarship of his country, and qualified himself, and was preparing means for others, to the accomplishment of that end. Hence his ‘lingering in the groves of Academus,’ or his intimacy with the ancient ‘votaries of the Muses,’ was not the reminiscence merely of youthful attachment; but, turning his acquirements into a channel of usefulness, he could

contemplate them, not as mementos of wasted labor, but even as fruits of enlightened public spirit.

“ How to express my own feelings I find very difficult. Indeed, it is not necessary. You know his moral and intellectual worth, and can appreciate its value, as well as the value of his literary excellence. His was a rare example of true modesty united with distinguished and solid merit, of unassuming but efficient worth, of gentleness of temper joined with decision of character, and of liberal study blended with practical usefulness, good learning with sound common-sense, and thorough honesty of purpose and act ; and I may add, of inflexible integrity in private, public, and political life.” *

Aided by the recollections of several of Mr. Pickering's most intimate friends, I am enabled to add the following sketch, which, in the absence of an engraved likeness, I am sure, will be acceptable to all his friends.

The personal appearance of Mr. Pickering was striking. It was both dignified and attractive. His stature was tall, and his form rather slender than stout, but well proportioned ; yet it was the expression of his countenance, and the fine intellectual cast of his features, which were the distinguishing characteristics of his person. The form of his face was oval, with a remarkably high and ample forehead. His mild, clear, hazel eye was expressive of the gentleness of his nature and the vigor of his intellect ; while a straight nose, slightly inclining to the Roman, and a finely formed mouth, added to the regularity of his features. The expression of his countenance, when in repose, was grave and thoughtful ; but his eye kindled benignantlly, and a benevolent smile played upon his lips, whenever any object of interest came

* Rev. Dr. Jenks.

before him. It was this peculiar benignity of expression, joined to an entire freedom from the slightest assumption of superiority in word, look, or manner, which attracted towards him the young, and those who were seeking relief from poverty or distress ; while the intellectual refinement and remarkable dignity of his personal appearance and manners commanded the interest and respect of persons in all conditions of life.

ANCESTORS AND FAMILY.

The following additional notices may be interesting to many of Mr. Pickering's friends.

The first-named John Pickering, as stated in Allen's *Biographical Dictionary*, came to New England about 1630, and died at Salem in 1657. "February 7, 1637, he was admitted to the privileges of an inhabitant." He left two sons, JOHN and Jonathan. The latter died in 1729, at the age of 90, without issue. John, born about 1637, married Alice, daughter of William Flint, and died May 5th, 1694, leaving his wife, Alice, and sons, JOHN, Benjamin, and William (who married a Higginson), and daughters, Elizabeth (married to a Nichols), and Hannah (married to John Buttolph). To John he bequeathed "Broad Field by the mill-pond," as stated in Felt's *Annals of Salem* (whence these facts are principally taken), who states also, that "he was frequently of the selectmen, and a capable, enterprising, and public-spirited man." The third John Pickering married Sarah Burrill of Lynn, and died June 19, 1722, aged 64, leaving his wife, Sarah, sons, Theophilus and TIMOTHY, and daughters, Lois (married to Timothy Orne), Sarah (married to Joseph Hardy), and Eunice (married to her cousin, William Pickering). "He was selectman and representative in the legislature. His decease was a loss to the community."

Timothy Pickering married Mary Wingate, and died June 7th, 1778, aged 75, leaving his wife, Mary, sons, John and TIMOTHY, and daughters, Sarah, Mary, Lydia, Elizabeth, Lois, Eunice, and Lucia; all of whom were married (except John), and had numerous descendants. "Deacon Timothy Pickering sustained principal offices in town, and was an intelligent, active, and useful man." His elder brother, Theophilus, deserves notice as one of the remarkable men of his time. He was educated at Harvard College, graduating in 1719, and settled in the ministry in that part of Ipswich which is now Essex. He was remarkable for his bodily strength, mechanical ingenuity, and theological ability. Tradition says, that a certain man, who had the presumption to challenge him to a wrestle, was not only thrown by him at once, but thrown over the wall. His friends thought him equally successful against some of the New Lights of that day, who wrestled with him in religious controversy. He died, unmarried, at the age of forty-seven. The seven daughters of Timothy Pickering were married as follows: Sarah, to John Clarke (parents of the late Rev. John Clarke of Boston, and Mrs. Francis Cabot); Mary, *first*, to the Rev. Dudley Leavitt (parents of the late Mrs. Dr. Joseph Orne, Mrs. William Pickman, and Mrs. Isaac White, whose daughter, Sarah, became Mrs. Pickering), — *second*, to the late Chief-Justice Nathaniel Peaslee Sargeant; Lydia, to George Williams (parents of the late Samuel Williams, consul, &c., Mrs. Pratt, Mrs. Lyman, and others); Elizabeth, to John Gardner (parents of the late Samuel P. Gardner and Mrs. Blanchard); Lois, to John Gooll (parents of Mrs. Judge Putnam, who, with her widowed mother, once formed part of the family of her uncle, the Hon. John Pickering); Eunice, to her cousin, Paine Wingate, Senator of the United States from New Hampshire (parents of George Wingate, a graduate of Harvard College in 1796, and other children); Lucia, to Israel Dodge (parents of the late Pickering Dodge, Mrs. Stone, Mrs. Devereux, and others). The members of this family were remarkable for their longevity. Mrs. Win-

gate's age a little exceeded one hundred years, and her husband was for some years the oldest surviving graduate of Harvard College.

The few particulars now mentioned may be sufficient to indicate these wide-spreading branches of the Pickering family.

Colonel Timothy Pickering, who was born in 1745, and died in 1829, married Rebecca White, and they had first eight sons, and then twin daughters, Mary and Elizabeth. Their eighth son was Octavius Pickering, well known as a reporter of decisions of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. Of the father, whose exalted character as a patriot and statesman is indelibly impressed on the history of his country, we need say nothing here, except to notice one of his most gratifying honors, which became intimately connected with the subject of our eulogy. Washington, on retiring from the presidency, in 1797, presented Colonel Pickering, his fellow-soldier and friend, with a splendid piece of silver plate, from his own service, as a memorial of his cordial esteem and confidence. This treasure, of priceless value, was bequeathed by the Colonel to his son, John, and by him to his daughter, Mary Orne Pickering. May it always find possessors equally worthy of such a treasure !

Mr. Pickering's two sons, John and Henry White, graduated at Harvard University, the one in 1830, the other in 1831 ; both are happily settled in Boston, the former in the profession of the law, the latter in commercial business. The proprietor of the ancestral estate, in Salem, is still John Pickering.

NOTE A. Page 42.

Mr. Pickering was a representative from Salem in the legislature of Massachusetts, in 1812 and 1813, and again in 1826 ; a Senator from the county of Essex in 1815 and 1816, and from the

county of Suffolk in 1829, and a member of the Executive Council in 1818. He received the degree of LL. D. in 1822, from Bowdoin College, and, in 1835, from Harvard University. The following is copied from the *Law Reporter* already referred to.

“The number of societies, both at home and abroad, of which he was an honored member, attests the wide-spread recognition of his merits. He was President of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; President of the American Oriental Society; Foreign Secretary of the American Antiquarian Society; Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society; of the American Ethnological Society; of the American Philosophical Society; honorary member of the Historical Societies of New Hampshire, of New York, of Pennsylvania, of Rhode Island, of Michigan, of Maryland, of Georgia; of the National Institution for the Promotion of Science; of the American Statistical Association; of the Northern Academy of Arts and Sciences, Hanover, New Hampshire; of the Society for the Promotion of Legal Knowledge, Philadelphia; corresponding member of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin; of the Oriental Society at Paris; of the Academy of Sciences and Letters at Palermo; of the Antiquarian Society at Athens; of the Royal Northern Antiquarian Society at Copenhagen; and titular member of the French Society of Universal Statistics.”

NOTE B. Page 47.

The Report referred to was made to the Board of Overseers at their annual meeting in January, 1841. The following brief extract will sufficiently indicate its character.

“Superficial observers, who measure the value of education by its direct capacity of being turned into money, or the immediate supply of the physical wants of man, and not by its moral effects on the constituent elements of human society, are frequently dis-

posed to undervalue some of the departments of knowledge, — particularly ancient literature, — which have always been cherished, and justly so, as an essential part of the university course. Those departments of study are too often stigmatized as antiquated, and not adapted to the ‘spirit of the age’; while an urgent call is made for what is designated by the vague and undefined name of useful knowledge. Such persons seem to mistake the true purpose of a university education; which is not to qualify a young man for any one particular profession or business, but to develop the powers of his mind, and to store it with all that general information in science and literature which shall be really useful to him, by its permanent influence in any station in life.”

NOTE C. Page 48.

In the *Law Reporter*, before referred to, it is justly said of Mr. Pickering, “that he was a thorough, hard-working lawyer, for the greater part of his days in *full practice*, constant at his office, attentive to all the concerns of business, and to what may be called the humilities of his profession. He was faithful, conscientious, and careful in all that he did; nor did his zeal for the interests committed to his care ever betray him beyond the golden mean of duty. The law, in his hands, was a shield for defence, and never a sword with which to thrust at his adversary. His preparations for arguments in court were marked by peculiar care; his brief was very elaborate. On questions of law he was learned and profound, but his manner in court was excelled by his matter. The experience of his long life never enabled him to overcome the native, childlike diffidence which made him shrink from public displays. He developed his views with clearness, and an invariable regard to their logical sequence; but he did not press them home by energy of manner or any of the ardors of eloquence.

“ His mind was rather judicial than forensic in its cast. He was better able to discern the right than to make the wrong appear the better reason. He was not a legal athlete, snuffing new vigor in the hoarse strifes of the bar, and regarding success alone ; but a faithful counsellor, solicitous for his client, and for justice too. It was this character that led him to contemplate the law as a science, and to study its improvement and elevation. He could not look upon it merely as a means of earning money. He gave much of his time to its generous culture. From the walks of practice he ascended to the heights of jurisprudence, embracing within his observation the systems of other countries. His contributions to this department illustrate the spirit and extent of his inquiries.”

Thus was the law the laborious as well as honorable business of Mr. Pickering's life. Literature, however intently pursued, was his amusement, his delightful recreation. And this he enjoyed chiefly at home in the midst of his family. Besides the fine law library at his office, he had at his house a large miscellaneous one of choice books which gratified his highest wishes. But his love for books did not seclude him from society or from domestic enjoyment. The claims of hospitality as well as of his family were sacredly regarded by him ; and when these encroached on hours which he had assigned to some favorite pursuit, the early morning and the late evening would find him redeeming the time which had been cheerfully given to the duties of social and domestic life. His extraordinary faculty of abstraction, the readiness with which his mind could turn from one subject to another, his unwearied industry, and a peculiarly calm and happy temperament, all united in enabling him to accomplish what he did in the conflicting pursuits of literature and the law.

NOTE D. Page 58.

It is not easy to give a just impression of the variety and extent of Mr. Pickering's kind and gratuitous services. At the moment the writer was engaged upon this part of his subject, he received a letter from a friend, now a distinguished author, containing the following grateful acknowledgment of assistance afforded to himself. "Mr. Pickering," he observes, "was in my eye the model of a high-bred, courtly, and refined gentleman, — profound, yet unpretending. I have gathered much wisdom from his lips, as well as his writings; the first compositions I ever put to press were revised by him." Many an author has been ready to acknowledge much more than this, and with equal pleasure. Mr. Pickering might have justly applied to himself the remark which he made of his friend, Mr. Du Ponceau, that, if he had been ambitious to claim all that he was entitled to, "he might in numberless instances have said, in the spirit of the Roman poet, — *Hos ego versiculos feci; tulit alter honores.*"

In the pursuits of the young student Mr. Pickering always manifested a lively interest, and the young were strongly attracted to him. With some of the gifted students of our University he maintained a literary correspondence. Among those of them who have passed away may be named Samuel Harris, with whom, many years ago, he corresponded on the Hebrew and other learned languages, and whose untimely death deprived the country of one who promised to be an accomplished Oriental scholar.

We must not omit all notice of one of the most laborious of Mr. Pickering's undertakings in this class of services. Not long before his removal to Boston, a protracted series of arduous and perplexing duties was imposed upon him as chairman of a committee "appointed to inquire into the practicability and expediency of establishing manufactures in Salem." His elaborate and able re-

port on the subject was published in 1826, and affords striking evidence of his practical, as well as his intellectual, talents.

A more characteristic instance of generous service occurs to our recollection, which deserves mention as manifesting his ever vigilant attention to the interests of learning. He promoted and prepared an ably written memorial to Congress, from the principal citizens of Salem, in 1820, for the reduction of duties on the importation of certain foreign books. It was the first presented to the government on that subject, though followed by others from various learned bodies, the object being considered important to the cause of literature and science in the United States.

NOTE E. Page 58.

Mr. Pickering, in his Address before the American Oriental Society, observes, "that the various new sources of information which modern perseverance and zeal have opened to us have materially extended the boundaries of a liberal education; and it has become indispensable to unite with our Greek and Roman a portion of Oriental learning. If there were no other motive for the pursuit of this branch of knowledge, there would be a sufficient one in the fact, that the great parent language of India, the *Sanscrit*, is now found to be so extensively incorporated into the Greek, Latin, and other languages of Europe, and, above all, in those which we consider as peculiarly belonging to the Teutonic or German family, that no man can claim to be a philologist without some acquaintance with that extraordinary and most perfect of the known tongues."

In the *Law Reporter*, before referred to (p. 62), it is stated (doubtless within bounds), that Mr. Pickering "was familiar with the French, Portuguese, Italian, Spanish, German, Romaic, Greek, and Latin; was well acquainted with the Dutch, Swedish, Danish,

and Hebrew ; and had explored, with various degrees of care, the Arabic, Turkish, Syriac, Persian, Coptic, Sanscrit, Chinese, Cochinese, Russian, Egyptian hieroglyphics, the Malay in several dialects, and particularly the Indian languages of America and of the Polynesian islands."

Of late years, the Egyptian hieroglyphics possessed for Mr. Pickering a fascinating interest. The history of the Egyptians, from the era of Herodotus down to the latest discoveries of Lepsius, would have enlisted his enthusiasm as a lover of literature and science ; yet it was in connection with his cherished pursuit, the study of languages, that the hieroglyphical inscriptions enchained his attention, — speaking, as they do, through the medium of Champollion's interpretation, a language older than all others by the long interval of ages.

NOTE F. Page 61.

Mr. Pickering's memoir *On the Pronunciation of the Greek Language* was hailed by the Greeks "as a vindication of their national honor"; and Asopius, a learned Greek (a poet and professor at the University of the Seven Islands), was so much gratified by reading it, that he sent Mr. Pickering a copy of one of the best specimens of Romaic literature, as a token of his gratitude.

The *North American Review*, for June, 1819, contains a profound and very learned article upon this Memoir, which the scholar who is curious in Greek literature will find exceedingly interesting.

NOTE G. Page 63.

As we wish to give a just view of the character and merits of Mr. Pickering's great work, we adduce here some passages from

several of the numerous other critical notices of it which have appeared in various parts of the country, and which extol it in the same high tone of commendation as those before referred to. "Liddell and Scott's," it is said, "is the only work now extant that can come in competition with Pickering's." And it is added, — "We do not hesitate to give the preference to Pickering's, because we regard it as better suited for use in colleges and schools." Mr. Pickering himself, in the Preface to his *Lexicon*, speaks of Liddell and Scott's as "a most valuable and important acquisition to all who wish to study Greek critically." He was, indeed, the last man to depreciate the literary works of another. But his object was, to make the best lexicon for the students of Greek generally. This, for our country, appeared to be the desirable object. Those comparatively few scholars who pursue their Greek studies to great extent and exactness will of course supply themselves with various lexicons. That Mr. Pickering succeeded in his object is abundantly manifest.

A learned professor (who speaks to us through the *Hampshire and Franklin Express*) says of Mr. Pickering's *Lexicon*: — "The recent edition is a new work, restudied and rewritten, with the aid of all the best works of the kind which European scholars have so multiplied during the interval of ten or fifteen years which have elapsed since the appearance of the first. And irrespective of national preferences and grateful recollections, all prejudices apart, it is a work of vast labor, great learning, excellent judgment, and elegant taste; it is, as we have said, in its kind and for its use, a finished work. It is not, of course, as full and complete as its larger rival; though, on some points, — as, for instance, the *prepositions* and *particles*, — it will bear a favorable comparison in regard to completeness. In the discriminating and felicitous *translation* of many and difficult passages, it is without a rival. The quantities of the doubtful vowels are marked with great care and accuracy. The derived tenses of the verb are exhibited in distinct articles, much to the convenience of the young student. It illus-

trates the words and idioms of the *New Testament* more fully than any other lexicon of the classic Greek now in use. In short, it accomplishes what it professes to ; and to enumerate its excellencies were but to repeat, as real and splendid achievements, what are set forth as modest claims in the editor's Preface."

"Of all Greek lexicons which have hitherto appeared," says another competent judge (through the *Connecticut Weekly Review*), "we think Pickering's will be most useful to all classes of students. It will be the lexicon for the school-desk, and for the collegian's study ; and it will be especially prized by the teacher who wishes thoroughly to capacitate himself to communicate to others a critical knowledge of this ancient language by the simplest method. It is sufficiently copious, and has evidently been prepared with great care. We give it our unqualified recommendation."

A long list of similar testimonials might be given, but it is sufficient to add one more, taken from a recent number of the *Christian Examiner*, and evidently proceeding from a high source.

"The lexicon, in its present form, is in every respect an excellent one. It does great honor to the ability, unwearied industry, and vast attainments of its author. It is particularly adapted to the range of Greek works studied in the schools and colleges of the United States ; and American editions of the classics have been specially referred to. It is well suited to the younger scholars, inasmuch as it contains, in alphabetical order, the oblique cases and the principal dialectical or unusual forms of anomalous nouns, adjectives, and pronouns, and the principal tenses of anomalous verbs. But Mr. Pickering did not limit his task to this special object. He used all the aids which the recent works in philology and lexicography published in Europe, particularly in Germany, furnished him. Besides the contributions of Dunbar, and Liddell and Scott, Mr. Pickering diligently consulted the work of Passow, both in the original German edition, and in the new one edited by Rost and Palm, the lexicon of Jacobitz and Seidler, the excellent

one of Pape, those of Schneider and Riemer, besides numerous lexicons and verbal indexes to particular authors, and the new Paris edition, not yet completed, of Stephens's *Thesaurus*. Besides these lexicographical works, Mr. Pickering availed himself of special treatises on the various branches of Hellenic antiquities. It is sufficient to mention Boeckh on the *Public Economy of Athens*, and Platner on the *Attic Process*, both of which, while explaining the financial, political, judicial, and other problems growing out of the history of the Athenian commonwealth, have at the same time supplied important materials for the lexicographer. Mr. Pickering's professional learning has been of great assistance to him in that portion of the lexicon which contains the technical terms of Athenian law and the administration of justice. We have found his lexicon excellent for the Attic orators. Indeed, we have sometimes found words in it which are wanting in the larger work of Liddell and Scott. Mr. Pickering's definitions are concise and exact; and though his plan did not admit of a full historical development of every word, upon the principles partially carried into effect by Passow, yet the reader of Greek literature will rarely turn away unsatisfied.

"The work is very handsomely and accurately printed. It extends to 1456 pages, with three columns on a page, containing thus a vast amount of matter, with a remarkable economy of space. It is in every respect a very convenient and desirable book. F."

NOTE H. Page 65.

The following passage from the learned article in the *North American Review*, on Mr. Pickering's memoir of the Greek language (referred to in a preceding note), contains an allusion to his *Vocabulary*, with its title given at length. We therefore adopt it here.

“The author of this memoir is not a mere scholar. Like others of his countrymen who have deserved well of letters, he has been obliged to prosecute his studies, ‘not in the soft obscurities of retirement, or under the shelter of academic bowers,’ but amidst the inconveniences and distractions of public life, and the fatigues of his honorable profession. He is already well known to our readers as the author of a *Vocabulary of Words and Phrases which have been supposed to be Peculiar to the United States of America. To which is prefixed an Essay on the Present State of the English Language in the United States.* And having thus done no little service to American literature, he is the first to call the attention of scholars in this country to the proper pronunciation of the Greek.”

NOTE I. Page 67.

“If, indeed,” says Mr. Pickering, in his review of Dr. Jarvis’s *Discourse*, “our only motive in the study of languages were to repay ourselves by the stores of learning locked up in them, we should be poorly rewarded for the labor of investigating the Indian dialects; but if we wish to study human speech as a science, just as we do other sciences, by ascertaining all the facts or phenomena, and proceeding to generalize and class those facts for the purpose of advancing human knowledge; in short, if what is called philosophical grammar is of any use whatever, then it is indispensable to the philologist of comprehensive views to possess a knowledge of as many facts or phenomena of language as possible; and these neglected dialects of our own continent certainly do offer to the philosophical inquirer some of the most curious and interesting facts of any languages with which we are acquainted.”

“Until within a few years past,” he observes, in his memoir on a uniform orthography for the Indian languages of North America, “these neglected dialects, like the devoted race of men who

have spoken them for so many ages, and who have been stripped of almost every fragment of their paternal inheritance except their language, have incurred only the contempt of the people of Europe and their descendants on this continent ; all of whom, with less justice than is commonly supposed, have proudly boasted of their own more cultivated languages as well as more civilized manners."

"Mr. Du Ponceau," says Mr. Pickering, in his review of the *Dissertation on the Nature and Character of the Chinese System of Writing*, "was the first writer who took a comprehensive view of the languages of the whole continent, and established the general conclusion, that the American dialects, from one extremity of the continent to the other (with perhaps some exceptions), form a distinct class or family ; which, from their highly compounded character, he has happily designated by the term *polysynthetic*. Now these complex American dialects are at one extremity of the series or chain of human languages ; while at the other we find the very simple and inartificial language of China ; these two extremes, when contrasted with each other, presenting this extraordinary phenomenon, that the savage tribes of the New World, though destitute of all literature and even of written languages, are found to be in possession of highly complex and artificial forms of speech, — which would seem to be the result of cultivation, — while in the Old World, the ingenious Chinese who were civilized and had a national literature even before the glorious days of Greece and Rome, have for four thousand years had an extremely simple, not to say rude and inartificial, language, that, according to the common theories, seems to be the infancy of human speech. This phenomenon well deserves the consideration of the philosophical inquirer, and especially of those speculatists who have assumed a certain necessary connection between what is considered the refined or artificial state of a language and the cultivation of the human race."

In reference to "the able and philosophical investigations of

Mr. Du Ponceau, and the interesting work of his experienced and worthy fellow-laborer, the Rev. Mr. Heckewelder," Mr. Pickering, in his memoir just now mentioned, says:—"For my own part, I acknowledge that they have occasioned my taking a deeper interest in this apparently dry and barren subject, than I would have believed to be possible in any one, however devoted he might be to philological pursuits; and I have in consequence been for a time allured from old and favorite studies, to which I had intended to allot the whole of that little leisure which I could spare from the duties of my profession."

The original manuscript of the dictionary of Father Rasles or Râle (for his name is spelt both ways) was found among his papers after his death in 1724, and came into the possession of Harvard College. "Of all the memorials of the aboriginal languages in the Northern Atlantic portion of America," observes Mr. Pickering, in his introductory memoir, "the following Dictionary of the Abnaki language (or Abenaki, as it is often called, after the French writers) is now among the most important." Mr. Pickering spared no labor in its publication. It may be found in the first volume, new series, of the *Memoirs of the American Academy*, extending over more than two hundred quarto pages.

Of "the printed books relating to these languages," adds Mr. Pickering, "the wonderful work of Eliot, 'the apostle,' I mean his entire translation of the Old and New Testaments, and his Grammar of the Massachusetts Indian language, are in every respect the most remarkable." Mr. Pickering's admirable republication of this grammar was entitled,— "A New Edition with Notes and Observations, by Peter S. Du Ponceau, LL. D., and an Introduction and Supplementary Observations by John Pickering." It first appeared in the *Massachusetts Historical Collections*. So also did the "New Edition, with Notes by John Pickering," of Dr. Edwards's *Observations on the Mohegan Language*.

NOTE K. Page 69.

Those who feel an interest in the subject will not fail to recur to Mr. Pickering's beautiful philosophical essay *On the Adoption of a Uniform Orthography for the Indian Languages of North America*, contained in the fourth volume of the *Memoirs of the American Academy*. Its perusal, indeed, would in most minds create an interest, if one is not already felt.

Professor Robinson, in his *Biblical Researches in Palestine, &c.* (Vol. I., p. x.), upon stating that the Syrian mission at Jerusalem had adopted "the system proposed by Mr. Pickering for the Indian languages," observes:—"Two motives led to a preference of this system; first, its own intrinsic merits, and facility of adaptation; and secondly, the fact, that it was already extensively in use throughout Europe and the United States, in writing the aboriginal names in North America and the South Sea islands; so that, by thus adopting it for the Oriental languages, a uniformity of orthography would be secured among the missions, and also in the publications of the American Board."

After referring to the "Essay, &c., by John Pickering," Professor Robinson adds:—"The Indian languages of North America and of the islands of the Pacific have mostly been reduced to writing according to this simple system."

The following is a list of the principal languages which have been reduced to writing, on the principles of Mr. Pickering's system, by missionaries of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and in which books have actually been printed:—the Greybo and Gaboon, in *Africa*; the Hawaiian, *Sandwich Islands*; the Choctaw, Creek, Osage, Pawnee, Seneca, Abenakis, Ojibwa, Ottawa, Sioux, and Nez Perces, *North America*.

NOTE L. Page 72.

Mr. Pickering, in his biographical notice of Mr. Du Ponceau, thus describes the new views presented in his *Dissertation on the Nature and Character of the Chinese System of Writing*. "He published a few years ago a work unfolding new views of the remarkable language of China, which has been long enveloped in almost as much mystery as the hieroglyphic system of ancient Egypt. Not agreeing with those who held the opinion, that the Chinese language is *ideographic*, that is, that the *written* characters denote *ideas* of things, and do not represent *spoken* words, — so that different nations of the East could understand each other by the *writing*, when they could not by speaking, — just as the Arabic numerals are understood alike, for example, by a Frenchman and Englishman, when written, though not when spoken, — contesting this opinion, we say, Mr. Du Ponceau boldly assumes the position, that the Chinese must be like other languages, and that the written characters, or words, represent *spoken* words or sounds, as in all the languages of Europe. The sinologists of the Old World are acquainted with his book, but are not prepared to adopt his views, though some of them are silently making use of his terminology, and so far give countenance to his results. Yet, if he is wrong, and if the language of the Chinese is not like other languages of the *human race* in the particular in question, the fact will present a more extraordinary phenomenon than any of the extraordinary characteristics hitherto known of that singular people."

Having reviewed this important work immediately after its publication, with the profoundest attention to the subject, Mr. Pickering naturally felt much curiosity to observe in what manner Mr. Du Ponceau's new and striking views of the Chinese language would be received by European scholars. "Knowing the force of the opinions which have been maintained by them for more

than two centuries, respecting the language of the singular people of the 'Celestial empire,' we were prepared," say the North American Reviewers, in their article on the Cochin-Chinese language, "for a total dissent from the doctrines of our learned author, if not a positive and direct attempt to refute them." "When we saw announced in the contents of that long-established and able journal, the *London Monthly Review*, for December, 1840, an article expressly upon this work, we felt no little impatience to see the article itself, which we had understood to be highly commendatory of Mr. Du Ponceau's work, and in perfect coincidence with his views. Upon opening the London journal, what was our astonishment to find, at the first glance, that the review was taken from our own article; and, upon a closer comparison, to discover, that, with the exception of a few paragraphs (which in their original form had American badges attached to them), *the entire London article was a reprint, without any acknowledgment, from our own pages!*"

NOTE M. Page 74.

PETER S. DU PONCEAU, LL. D.

A few passages from Mr. Pickering's interesting notice of the life and character of his most distinguished literary and personal friend cannot be out of place here.* They were doubtless first attracted to each other by their rare erudition, but their friendship was cemented by that purity of heart and delicacy of taste and of feeling in which they so entirely sympathized. Their correspondence, which was commenced in 1818, and terminated only by death, was as intimate and delightful as it was learned.

Mr. Du Ponceau died in April, 1843. "To the writer of this

* First published in the *Boston Courier*, April 8, 1843.

notice," says Mr. Pickering, "for whom he had long cherished an affection almost parental, his death is an irreparable loss ; a long-tried friend and counsellor is no more !"

"Mr. Du Ponceau was born on the third day of June, 1760, in the Isle of Ré, which lies a few miles from the coast of La Vendée, in France." His philological genius, like Mr. Pickering's, discovered itself very early, and in his case appears to have determined his lot in life. "As the smallest circumstances in the history of such minds as his," continues Mr. Pickering, "cannot but be interesting, we will here add, — we have heard him state, that, while a child of only six years of age, his curiosity to know something of the English language was intensely excited by his accidentally meeting with a single torn leaf of an English book, in which he discovered the strange letters *k* and *w*, — for such they were to a child who had never seen them in any book in his own language ; and this circumstance, trifling as it may appear, first directed his attention to our language. At that time, General Conway, who was afterwards somewhat conspicuous, during the American Revolution, as a member of the British House of Commons, had the command of a regiment stationed in the Isle of Ré, and, being struck with the remarkable points of character in a child of so tender an age, and with his aptitude for the study of languages, obligingly took pains to instruct him in English ; and such was his progress, that in a very short time he was able to read Milton, Shakspeare, and other English classics, whose works are far beyond the grasp of ordinary youthful minds. As he proceeded, he became so delighted with the great English masters, that he never afterwards acquired a truly national fondness for the poetry of France."

When the well-known Baron Steuben was in Paris, on his way to the United States to join the American army, and, "being unacquainted with the English language, was making inquiries for some young man, who could speak English, to accompany him as his secretary, he was informed of young Du Ponceau, who hap-

pened then to be in Paris, and an arrangement was made with him accordingly. We recollect," adds Mr. Pickering, "to have heard Mr. Du Ponceau say, that, at that time, though he had never been out of France, he understood and could speak English as perfectly as he ever could afterwards."

"Mr. Du Ponceau left Paris in the suite of Baron Steuben for the United States, fired with the ardor of youth, and full of zeal in the cause of American liberty, which he ever fondly cherished. He landed at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on the first day of December, 1777, an event in his life which he often alluded to with lively interest."

"At the close of the war, he had fixed his mind on the profession of the law, — and many years did not elapse before he attained the first rank." — "His purity of purpose, incorruptible integrity, and independence, never suffered him, during periods of the highest political excitement, to deviate from the sacred duty of a faithful legal adviser, even when pressed by the almost irresistible influence of national feeling or partisan principles, or — what in our own time is a still stronger stimulant — the corrupting lure of political advancement."

"During the latter part of his life, after he had acquired a competent fortune by his profession, he devoted most of his time to his favorite study of *general philology*, a science which has employed the first intellects of the Old World, from the time of the great Leibnitz to that of the late illustrious Baron William Humboldt in our own time; and there can be little, if any doubt, that the labors of Mr. Du Ponceau in that noble, but boundless field, have, among the profound scholars of Europe, contributed more to establish our reputation for solid erudition than those of any other individual in this country."

Mr. Du Ponceau most heartily reciprocated the admiration entertained of him by Mr. Pickering, whom he regarded as an honor and an ornament to his country, and often alluded to the high estimation in which he was held by the first philologists and eth-

nographers of the Old World, — the Humboldts and the Prichards, who sought and appreciated his correspondence.

NOTE N. Page 79.

“ In contemplating the variety, the universality, of his attainments, the mind involuntarily exclaims, ‘ The admirable Pickering ! ’ He seems, indeed, to have run the whole round of knowledge.”

“ The death of one thus variously connected is no common sorrow. Beyond the immediate circle of family and friends, he will be mourned by the bar, amongst whom his daily life was passed ; by the municipality of Boston, whose legal adviser he was ; by clients who depended upon his counsels ; by all good citizens, who were charmed by the abounding virtues of his private life ; by his country, who will cherish his name more than gold or silver ; by the distant islands of the Pacific, who will bless his labors in every written word that they read ; finally, by the company of jurists and scholars throughout the world.” — 9 *Law Reporter*, pp. 61, 66.

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White, Daniel Appleton

Eulogy on John Pickering, president of the american academy of arts and sciences Delivered before the academy, Octb. 28. 1846

Cambridge 1847

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